

Egypt reacts to US-Israeli strategic agreement

Philip Finnegan
Star Cairo Correspondent

CAIRO — The Egyptian government has reacted angrily to the US-Israeli strategic agreement. The pact revives Egyptian government's fears of an even stronger American tilt towards Israel, fears of continued isolation in the Arab world, fears of being outflanked by the domestic opposition, and even fears for Egypt's own security.

Egyptian leaders chose their words carefully to express their distaste. President Hosni Mubarak told reporters last Sunday "we hope it's not true — of course if it's true, it will be a disaster — it will put America's friends in a very awkward position." Egyptian Prime Minister Fuad Mubieddin suggested in the nationally broadcast policy statement before parliament — "we must say that the strategic co-operation agreement concluded lately between the United States and Israel might place new obstacles in the path of the durable, comprehensive and just peace which we seek."

Egyptian officials believe that these new obstacles have been created by an American tilt towards Israel. In a statement to the official Middle East News Agency, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Boutros Ghali explained — "the United States cannot play the role of a full partner (in the Middle East peace process) unless it adopts balanced stances towards Israel and Arab rights. By signing the agreement, the United States gave Israel an advantage in return

for nothing and skipped Palestinian and Arab rights."

This failure to present a balanced position is particularly damaging for the Egyptian point of view to chances of additional Arab moderates such as King Hussein joining in the peace process. Furthermore, they are concerned that closer links with the United States will encourage more aggressive Israeli policies by leaders confident of American economic and military backing.

Egyptian officials are worried that the United States is disproving what had become a fundamental axiom of Egyptian policy since the peace process began, namely that the United States is capable of acting as an unbiased mediator in the Middle East. If that premise comes into question, domestic and Arab critics will gain credence with their charges that Camp David is nothing more than a separatist peace and with their attacks on Egyptian links with the United States.

Domestic critics are already gloating in the opposition press. Muhsin Syed Ahmed, columnist for Al-Ahli, weekly of the leftist National Progressive Unionist Party, wrote last week — "the new Israeli-American strategic agreement only shows the bankruptcy of the strategy Sadat announced in saying that ninety-nine per cent of the cards are in the hands of the United States — this new strategic agreement is a reason for us to reconsider the Arab strategy towards America, putting on more pressure instead of begging. It is time that all Arabs united to face this new American invasion."



AT THE ELYSEE: His Majesty King Hussein is welcomed to the Elysee Palace on Tuesday by French President Francois Mitterrand just before the two leaders held discussions. King Hussein is on a private visit to France. The King is also expected to address the European Parliament in Strasbourg. (AP Wirephoto)

Israelis pound Palestinians

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The radio said it could not be determined who broke the five-week old ceasefire between Arafat loyalists and Syrian-backed Palestinian mutineers besieging the city.

A loyalist spokesman told reporters in Tripoli the rebels attempted to advance into the city's Bab-Tabbaneh and Sha'rani behind a Syrian artillery barrage at dawn but were repulsed. The claim could not be independently verified and the city was quiet at mid-morning.

The Israeli navy's two assaults at dusk and after nightfall on Tuesday left no visible damage at the port area. PLO spokes-

men said most of the Israeli barrage struck at olive groves south of the harbour, and reported no casualties.

There was no word from Mr. Arafat's command on the date of his evacuation from Tripoli with about 4,000 loyalist fighters. The rebels had set 21 December as the deadline for his departure, and threatened to storm the city if he fails to go.

The Greek government said it was still waiting for a green light from the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon before sending four chartered ships to evacuate Arafat and his loyalists.



Mr. Qasim Taki Al-Oraibi

there) indirectly. Also some arms supplies are provided by Syria and Libya.

When asked what Iraq would do if it followed through on its frequent threat to block the Hormuz Strait, Al-Oraibi stated "we are not benefiting from the Strait now. We are at war with Iran and don't think there's anything we can do if Iran closes the Hormuz — which I don't believe they can. But there are other countries which are interested in seeing the Strait open because of the oil exports from the Gulf. We don't think Iran is serious with its threats of closing the Hormuz because it would also affect them just as much."

Al-Oraibi was more reluctant to speak in detail about Iraqi-US relations. "We don't have accurate information on the issue of who is supplying arms to Iran. We don't have accurate information on the issue of who is supplying arms to Iran. We don't have accurate information on the issue of who is supplying arms to Iran."

Inside The Star:
16-page Holiday Guide

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Arafat returns to Tunis

TUNIS (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat will arrive in Tunis on Thursday morning, official Tunisian sources said on Wednesday.

The sources said he was expected to leave the Greek evacuation ship in Port Said, Egypt on Wednesday night and meet in Cairo with President Hosni Mubarak.

He will fly on Thursday morning to Tunis, after his forces successfully completed their evacuation from the north Lebanese part of Tripoli under the watching eyes of Israeli gunboats.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes bombed Iranian-backed guerrillas in Lebanon, while controversy blew up in Israel over efforts to hinder the evacuation.

A military communiqué said the warplanes scored accurate hits on a base near Baalbek, in eastern Lebanon, where terrorists under Iranian influence prepared attacks on Israeli troops, and the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

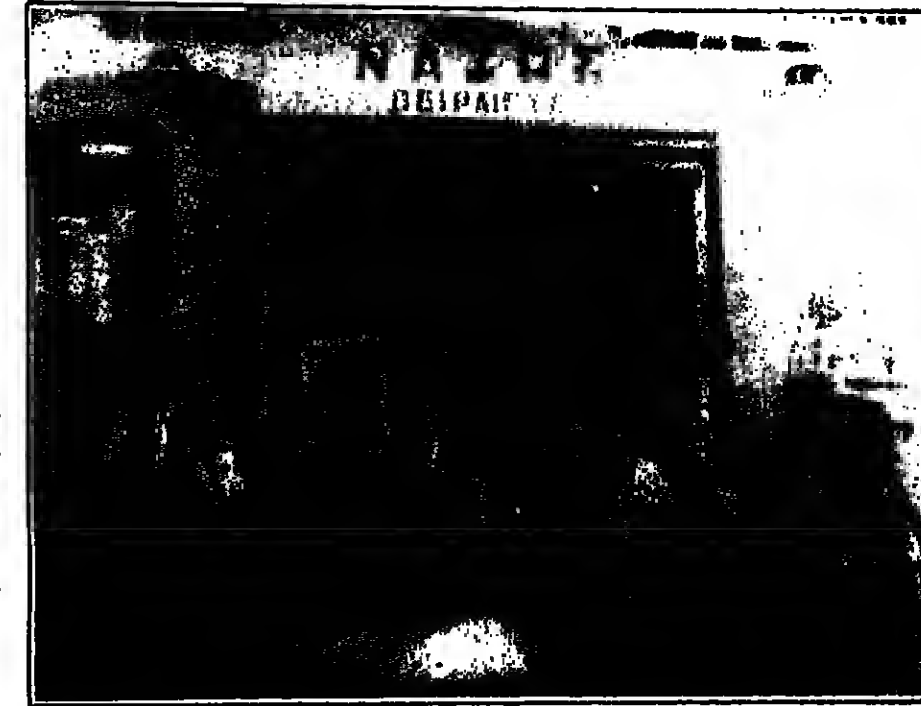
Defence Minister Moshe Arens told the parliament that Israel would go on attacking guerrilla targets in areas of Lebanon controlled by Syria, "to make the Syrians understand that as long as they don't resist terrorist gangs in areas under their control, we will hit terrorist targets, and that's what we did this morning."

Replying to questions in the house, he said Israel also would prevent the PLO rebels who drove Arafat out of Tripoli from entrenching in Lebanon's Shouf mountains.

Questions put by opposition deputies reflected criticism of Israeli naval bombardments of Tripoli port prior to Arafat's departure.

The Labour Party's Micha Harish charged that the shellings looked like a half-hearted attempt to block the evacuation, and had handed Arafat a victory because it made him look as though he had thwarted an Israeli plan.

Larnaca transfer
About 500 guerrillas evacuated from Tripoli arrived in Cyprus on Wednesday aboard a Greek ship to board planes and



Palestinian fighters from Tripoli disembark from the evacuation ship 'Naxos' on Wednesday (AP wirephoto)

fly to Iraq. It was a sombre occasion with no singing or shouting of slogans, contrasting greatly to a similar operation 16 months ago. In August last year, hundreds of Palestinians arrived in Cyprus acting like conquering heroes on their withdrawal from Beirut after withstanding a three-month Israeli siege.

The drabness of the arrival scene this time was alleviated only by the presence of half a dozen Greek Cypriot girls at the quayside holding armfuls of red carnations.

A small crowd of 50-100 port workers and Palestinian residents of Cyprus were also on the scene to watch the disembarkation. They clapped when the first guerrillas stepped ashore and then watched silently.

A total of 4,000 pro-Arafat guerrillas were forced to leave Tripoli, their last base in Middle East, after heavy attacks against them by Syrian-backed anti-Arafat, rebel Palestinian forces.

A bomb exploded almost simultaneously at a bar in the hamra shopping area.

Bombs explode in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A truck loaded with explosives blew up near a French position in West Beirut on Wednesday night, and at almost the same time a bomb killed at least three people at a downtown bar.

State-owned Beirut Radio said the truck-bomb exploded in the Nasra neighbourhood, in front of a wall headquarters of the French multinational peacekeeping contingent. There was no immediate report on casualties.

A bomb exploded almost simultaneously at a bar in the hamra shopping area.

Iraqi oil minister comments on Gulf war and says —

'We would accept all mediation efforts that propagate peaceful solution by negotiation'

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) last week held a meeting in Geneva. Members agreed to freeze the current production level of 17.5 million per day and the price of \$29 per barrel. The Star Geneva correspondent Carrie Nellie Thompson had an exclusive interview with the Iraqi Oil Minister Mr. Qasim Taki Al-Oraibi who spoke about the conference and Iraq's position both in the world of Opec and politics.

"The conference was a success though it was fairly quiet. Obviously there are always different viewpoints which we are re-evaluating (the oil market or discussing the future). But in all cases we all agree Opec should be coherent. We reached agreement on prices and quotas. We shall continue in agreement so as to maintain a stable market. These are the common factors that held the meeting together."

"It does not in any way mean we all have the same viewpoint but because of circumstances and as a result of the exchange of views, we decided what was thought to be the best. In any case, what the price was to be and how to maintain it took most of the time."

"In view of the fact that there is pressure on prices, it was decided we must seek all means and use all within our power... to preserve the level of prices and reduce pressure on them... this was the general consensus of the conference and everybody left with a view that if necessary we would meet (in an extraordinary session) to take necessary measures."

Al-Oraibi admitted that there were many areas of disagreement, including the election of a new secretary-general. He pointed out that Iran was insistent, its oil minister should occupy the position as it had been the very first to do so and now all thirteen had served. Iraq, Venezuela and Algeria also promoted candidates. Both Iraq and Iran were asked to withdraw their candidate so that compromise might be reached but Iran refused to compromise as there was never an agreement. The Libyan Oil Minister Mr. Kamal Hassan Maghur as president, will oversee the position of secretary-general until a new one can be elected at the next scheduled meeting in July next year in Vienna."

Whereas Mr. Maghur had been persistent in his assurance that Saudi Arabia had not violated quota agreements specified at the March meeting in London, Al-Oraibi noted that the monitoring committee had acknowledged total oil output had been 17.6 million barrels per day. He said this is not much different from the 17.5 set rate. The minister added, however, that other sources presented figures showing 18.3 - 18.6. "But these are estimates," he said. "To save time, we did not want to go into a discussion as to if they (Saudi) had exceeded or not exceeded," he continued.

Discipline in prices

There had been much discussion among correspondents and observers as to the necessity of having had the Geneva meeting. To this Al-Oraibi responded, "this meeting was one of the two yearly meetings with many items on the agenda — mostly administrative. It was not an extraordinary session so we just discussed prices and quotas". The major preoccupation of all member nations of Opec, according to Al-Oraibi, is when — if — there will be an oblation of the present oil glut and therefore a return to some semblance of discipline in prices. He stressed "we want stability for producers and consumers. We have to reach an understanding with the consumer, we have to get a stable arrangement. In the short run it is difficult to foresee stability... the market will remain weak, production will not reach levels which producers would like to see as a minimum. This causes instability unless we take a decision to reduce production."

Iraq-Iran war

Al-Oraibi admitted that the Iraq-Iran situation is affecting his country's economy.

a great deal and he has little optimism for a near resolution. "The war is between two sides. Any expectation to end or stop the war must come from the two sides. As far as we are concerned, our position is very clear. We have said several times on different occasions we would accept all mediation efforts (that) propagate a peaceful solution by negotiation."

"We have no pre-conditions but we have our own principles which we will discuss in a meeting. The other party is insisting on a continuation... I don't know when and if they ever will be convinced that it is necessary to stop the war and discuss things. The problem as we see it is the fact that in Iran there isn't only one side that makes decisions, there are more than one power centre in Iran, therefore it is difficult to visualize them all agreeing to stop the war and discuss a peaceful solution."

"This is the main problem and the issue. But we believe one of the elements which would help to approach a peaceful solution would be that other parties should stop and stand firm and press for peace. One idea would be for outsiders to stop aid to any of the two sides who would not agree to a peaceful solution. Most of the countries in the world have an interest in this area directly or indirectly. They must know instability could lead to a very dangerous situation."

"There is an opportunistic stand by some who speak of their efforts to stop the war. They speak at the United Nations or some other place but they don't come up with deeds by stopping supplying arms and helping. There doesn't seem to be (peace) on the immediate horizon. There doesn't seem to be the probability that Iran will agree to a cease-fire."

Al-Oraibi refused to be specific on the issue of who is supplying arms to Iran. "We don't have accurate information on this issue. But they do get arms and spare parts from Israel, North Korea, and from brokers through the Middle East. A lot of them are American, but mostly get

University inaugurates nuclear accelerator

By Khader Mansour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Van de Graaf nuclear accelerator at the Physics Department of the University of Jordan was inaugurated on Wednesday, in a ceremony held under the patronage of University President Abdul Salam Al-Jalal. The accelerator, the only one of its kind operating in the Arab World, was installed with technical assistance from West Germany.

In an interview with The Star, Physics Department Chairman Amal Hallak said that Jordan received the accelerator in 1979 under a technical co-operation agreement with Germany, but that experimental work began with its use only in 1983. It is the only working accelerator in the Middle East, excluding one in Israel; two others exist in Arab countries but they are not being used.

The department will primarily undertake research and teaching activities in industry, metallurgy, life sciences, archaeology, water analysis, pollution studies and other fields with the new equipment. "Our first stage of activities was confined to testing and experiments," Dr. Hallak said. "Our accelerator is capable of providing charged particles with high energy for interaction with matter. For example, protons can attain a velocity of 30,000 kilometres per second."

The range of application of the accelerator is very wide, "including the application of various nuclear methods," he said; but "it can best be utilised in basic physics and disciplinary researches."

The university is planning to produce a documentary film about the accelerator and its uses, he said. So far, the Health Ministry and the Royal Scientific Society have sent their officials and members to hear lectures on its functions. Information about the accelerator will be disseminated, but mainly to "technical bodies and teaching institutions from both public and private sectors" to whose work it relates.

The accelerator is installed in the new Science Faculty building at the university.

Kuwait ups security

KUWAIT (AP) — The Interior Ministry on Wednesday clamped restrictions on public gatherings as Justice Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Daif Al-Sabah said that a date would be announced within days for the trial of the group rounded up in connection with the 12 December bomb blasts in this Arab Gulf state.

The Interior Ministry announcement, broadcast over radio and television, said prior permission would be needed for any group of over 20 persons gathered to discuss a public issue. The ministry also barred advertisements for such gatherings in the media without the advance permit, warning that violators would be prosecuted.

Ten suspects, said to belong to a pro-Iranian underground party called Al-Daawa, are in police custody for the terrorist raids last week on the American and French Embassies and Kuwaiti targets.

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Junblatt asserts demands of Lebanese 'majority'

By Amal Ghannour
Star Staff Writer

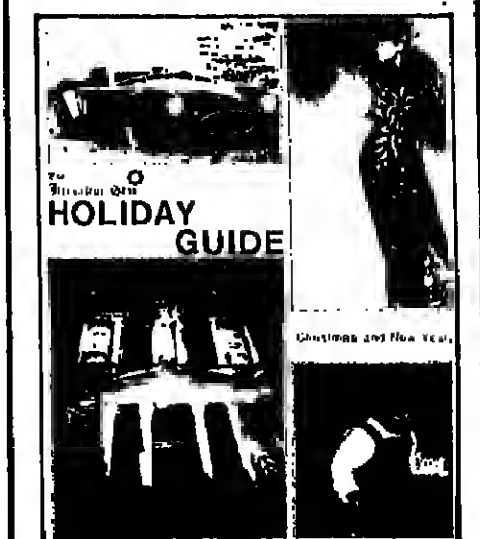
AMMAN — "If the existing political system persists, there will always be a civil war in Lebanon." That was the assessment of Mr. Walid Junblatt in a recent interview with The Star.

Mr. Junblatt, the powerful Druze leader and a spokesman for the Lebanese opposition factions, warned that Lebanon cannot hope for peace if the present government does not give heed to the rights and legitimate needs of the underprivileged and the underrepresented.

"The basic issue is not sectarian. It is the fact that many Lebanese — Sunni, Shi'a and Druze — are frustrated with the lack of equal rights," Mr. Junblatt said. He noted that there is a need for a total reshuffling of the old Lebanese status quo, and the rewriting of the constitution, which has served the interests of the few for more than 40 years.

Mr. Junblatt pointed out that the reconciliation process will be doomed to failure if the government remains insensitive to the demands of the majority.

Merry Christmas**



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Walid Junblatt

Asked then whether there was a chance for the reconvening of the Geneva conference, the Druze leader expressed his interest and willingness to pursue the dialogue "to try to achieve the necessary political reforms." But he added that "it would be fruitless to talk of the conference when we are bombing each other in Lebanon." The chance for the reconciliation talks, he maintained, came after the groundling forces.

McFarlane speaks with Jordanian, Jordan welcomes historic plane on its return flight

By Amal Ghandour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Amman this week joined Euronet, the weekly satellite press conference from Washington which brings together important decision-makers and journalists from around the world.

In this week's programme Mr. Mahmoud El-Sherif, Director General of the Jordan Press and Publishing Company (Ad-Dustour) and The Jerusalem Star, joined journalists from Paris, London, Geneva, Brussels, The Hague, Rome and Jerusalem to talk to President Reagan's National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane.

Most of the questions centred around the Lebanese crisis, and chances for future peace negotiations in the aftermath of the signing of the American-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement.

On the recent American attacks on Syrian positions in the mountains, Mr. McFarlane restated America's commitment to a stable and independent Lebanon. He maintained that "Any American attack is purely in self defence. We only attack when there is an attack on American units."

The National Security Adviser also reiterated the determination of the US to help in the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. He pointed out that the continued presence of

the Syrian and Israeli armies only serves to compromise the Lebanese government's efforts to achieve "a peaceful accommodation between the warring factions."

Mr. McFarlane went on to say that Israel and Syria have important incentives to withdraw from Lebanon since both share the interest of seeing a stable Lebanon. He also reconfirmed US approval of the withdrawal of pro-Arafat PLO forces from Tripoli, calling it an inducement for other foreign troops to withdraw.

Mr. McFarlane said that he could see no reason why Israel should block Greek ships carrying PLO forces as Israel has declared on many occasions that its ultimate interests will be safeguarded upon the departure of the PLO elements.

Commenting on the American-Israeli strategic alliance agreement

and its effects on American-Arab relations, stated that "in order for the US to be an effective mediator in the peace process, it will have to hold close relations with both sides to the conflict." He further argued that there is no need for concern in the Arab world, because this alliance is not designed for an offensive against the Arabs, but against the threat of Soviet infiltration into the area.

Asked by Mr. El-Sherif if the current American policy is not actually self-defeating since history illustrates that a more secure and stronger Israel is a more aggressive Israel, Mr. McFarlane engaged in heavy rhetoric about the virtues and benefits of peace for both the Arabs and the Israelis. He added that "Israel has already been through five wars, so surely it appreciates the necessity for peace, and its advantages."

AMMAN (Star) — Jordan will become part of world aviation history when an historic aircraft lands here on Friday. The plane, the first DC-2 of KLM, the Royal Dutch Airline, is retracing in reverse the route it took in a famous 1934 London-Melbourne air race.

The re-enactment of the historic flight, which the Uiver DC-2 finished in three days, 18 hours and 13 minutes, is sponsored by KLM, the Royal Dutch Airline. The flight has become the focus of a great deal of attention within the Dutch media and the air travel industry, and the plane will arrive with several

passengers including a Dutch television crew.

The pilot of the current flight is the nephew of Albert Plesman, the founder of KLM. He will stay in Jordan overnight and then fly on to Amsterdam.

The 1934 air race caught the imagination of the entire world. The Uiver flew against 19 competitors, making 21 stops between London and Melbourne. The most famous stop was the penultimate one, in Albany, New South Wales, where residents lit up the town's rucetrack with their car headlights to enable the pilot to land during a storm — and marking the day in the history of the town and of the airline.

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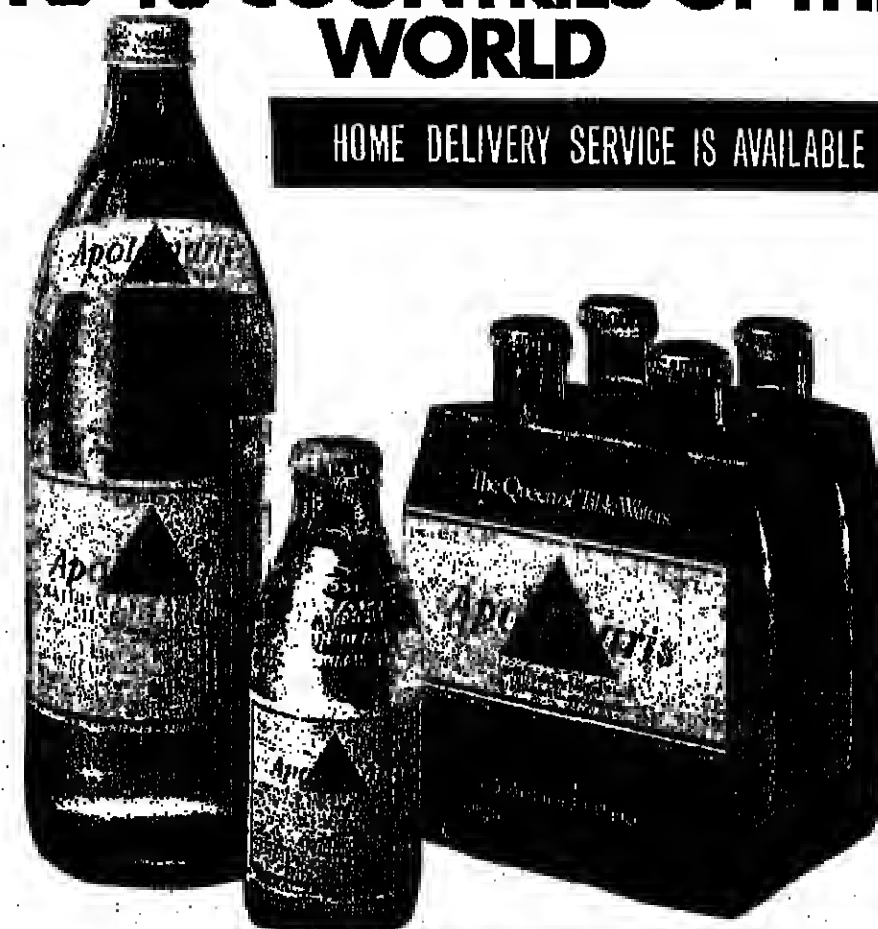
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USAID to finance solar project

By Fadia Faqir
Special to The Star

AMMAN — The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has agreed to finance part of a project to construct power-generating solar ponds on the Dead Sea to Jordan, according to Royal Scientific Society (RSS) officials.

"USAID will fund the first phase of the project which will last for about two years," Mr. Malek Kabarti told The Star. Mr. Kabarti is head of the Solar Collectors Applications Section of the RSS' Solar Energy Research Centre.

The Dead Sea project was discussed at a seminar entitled "Salt-Gradient Solar Pond", held at the RSS last week. Sixteen participants represented the RSS, Arab Potash Company, National Planning Council, Jordan Electricity Authority, the Directorate of Energy at the Ministry of Trade and Industry and USAID.

"Jordan is the ideal place for applying the solar pond technology," Mr. Kabarti said. "All the gradients needed are available at the Dead Sea area. One of the most expensive items for such a project is salt, and we have plenty of it. The second important gradient is solar energy, and we have plenty of that too."

Junblatt predicts a new civil war under existing system

Continued from page 1

of neutral observers to prevent violent confrontations, were the two terms which Mr Junblatt attached to the ceasefire. He also suggested that the Lebanese army halt its shelling of Druze and Shi'ite positions in response to sniping incidents. He cautioned that "following such an exaggerated line of response will oblige the Druze forces to shell the army back, thus allowing for the continuation of a vicious cycle."

Commenting on recent reports that he intended to create a Druze state if the reconciliation process fails, Mr Junblatt insisted that such rumours were not even worthy of a denial.

"The Phalangists and the extremists among the Maronites should deny them. They started the whole idea of partition in 1975, and now they are trying to establish a mini-state in a part of Lebanon," Mr Junblatt reaffirmed his commitment to a unified and democratic Lebanon.

On the American-Israeli strategic alliance agreement and the repercussions it might trigger in the Lebanese arena, Mr Junblatt argued that the alliance serves to consolidate an already strong and hostile connection in the Middle East. He pointed out that the United States had already used the Israeli forces in the 1982 Israeli invasion, to create a "Pax Americana" in Lebanon. Upon the failure of its

plan in face of serious Syrian-Lebanese opposition, the US is quick to add that such a Soviet threat is a mere illusion. "The Americans are insisting humiliating the Arabs, and doing their will on all levels," Junblatt's only suggestion "for active and strong policies against such aggressive US moves, no matter what the price the consequences."

He interpreted the danger of escalation of tension between Syrian and American forces as another manifestation "of the US's lack of understanding why Syria is always to have a national option for the Lebanese and the US should reconcile itself to this fact."

Referring to what he said was the US's claims that its attack on Syrian positions were "punishment of terrorism," Mr Junblatt called them unfounded. Defending one's rights, he asserted, is not terrorism, but the US continues to attack the Syrians, it should expect more reprisals.

In retrospect, the Druze have labelled the mission of the American Marines in Lebanon as a complete failure. "They cannot even defend themselves, let alone the civilians. Besides their main objective is to protect the government of President Amin Gemayel, which up to the moment is a hostile regime to Lebanese national interests."

Asked about his meeting with US Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld, Mr Junblatt replied: "I cannot say that it was positive, except that the (US) ship 'New Jersey' is shelling the plateau in late fall and demands for loans and rollovers shooting the Arabs even further."

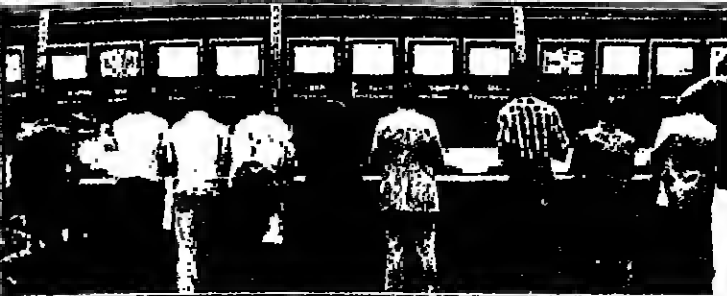
Commenting on the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal agreement, Mr Junblatt maintained his rejection of the document that legalises the Israeli invasion. "He pointed out that as far as the opposition is concerned, the agreement signed between the state of Israel and only one of the Lebanese factions, thus nullifying its legality. He further suggested that if Israel is truly seeking 'peace for Galilee', the Israeli does not provide the right framework for peace. Mr Junblatt pointed out that Israel has been more men during its occupation of southern Lebanon, than it ever did when the area was under the control of the PLO."

While keeping in mind that Israel does not need a peace for its continued occupation of the southern front," he posed his own alternatives to the controversial accord. He noted that the 1948 agreement (developed and agreed to fit the current circumstances), along with the UN resolutions and the Lebanese army, would well take over 52 per cent of the total revenue on assets (total revenue on assets) will remain on the average higher than at NCB and Riyad, which have both recorded a drop in 1982-83, and the latest ruling on the taxation of dividends should help them in keeping a steady growth of their sharehold equity.

On last week's Israeli support of the departure of Lebanese Christians after a three-month siege by the Druze forces, Mr Junblatt remarked: "This is a very clever political game by the Israelis to give guarantees to the militias, and then later on in another area of Lebanon."

Foreign-equity banks catch up with leaders after 'Saudi-ization' move

'The money crunch': Part I of two



Banks in Saudi Arabia have become a key factor in the future of the kingdom, with close to \$40 billion at their disposal. But the oil glut has triggered a money crunch unheard of since the late 1950s, with most of the burden lying with the private sector and the banking scene. Since February, total assets of banks have actually dropped. Deposits have ceased growing and demands for loans are shooting up as a shock absorber for the government payments in arrears. The liquidity squeeze is such that banks have had to repatriate some \$2.75 billion from abroad to meet local needs. The kingdom's "Top Two" banks, National Commercial and Riyad Bank, are fast losing ground to a new breed of money managers, the Saudi-ized banks, foreign institutions that switched to Saudi nationality between 1976 and 1980 by hosting local investors now holding 60 to 65 per cent of the equity. This was the only way to win the approval of the monetary authorities to expand throughout the country. The transition now going on is a high-powered money game and Robert Poullot explains why, thanks to a study just released by Capital Middle East, a Cyprus-based confidential service monitoring money and capital markets in the area.

THE GOLDEN age of bank expansion has come to an end in Saudi Arabia.

With deposits having reached a plateau in late fall and demands for loans and rollovers shooting up, the scramble for liquidity is marking a whole new era in Saudi money and cash management.

Under this new cycle of slugging business starting with the sharp economic contraction of 1982-83, the might of a wide deposit base as enjoyed hitherto by the two leading institutions — National Commercial Bank (NCB) and Riyad Bank — has fallen behind much more important criteria such as merchant banking facilities, treasury and inventory management expertise.

All eyes are now focused on the Saudi-ized banks, which have enjoyed a growth rate about twice as fast as the "Top Two" Saudi banks.

Indeed, over the next three years, a major turn-around will take place on the kingdom's banking theatre. Thanks to a much wider branch network than the Top Two combined, and a more advanced and efficient backup for computerized services, the Saudi-ized banks could well take over 52 per cent of the total revenue on assets (total revenue on assets) will remain on the average higher than at NCB and Riyad, which have both recorded a drop in 1982-83, and the latest ruling on the taxation of dividends should help them in keeping a steady growth of their sharehold equity.

The big question mark, however, will be the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency's (SAMA) still ill-defined towards the renewal of technical managing contracts signed by those banks with their foreign partners. Most contracts run until the end of 1985 with the exception of Bank Al-Jazira and Saudi American Bank (Sambal), where it expires at the end of 1986 and 1988 respectively.

Should SAMA forbid their renewals and push for greater Saudi-ization of their staff, it might affect future growth patterns and impede the flow-through of banking know-how. Yet new types of agreements could be reached on an individual basis along the same lines as those now in force in the Top Two.

New constraints on the Top Two By early 1983, NCB and Riyad still controlled 57 per cent of the overall banking market in the kingdom, according to their balance sheets (excluding, however, a net slowdown in their pace of expansion were already clear.

The biggest break to NCB's future expansion lies with its low capitalisation. As a Saudi official puts it, "the law of diminishing returns is the best way to describe the performance of National Commercial." With the probable exception of Saudi Cairo Bank which recorded hefty losses on the precious metal market in 1982, NCB has the lowest capital-to-assets ratio of all Saudi banks, with a share of 4.7 per cent as opposed to nearly 11 per cent for Riyad Bank. The impact is such that the number-one bank had to keep over \$900 million locked-in in statutory

reserves with SAMA at the end of 1982. As a result, the expansion of its branch network slowed down considerably.

The case of Riyad Bank, which has just undergone a major top management re-organization, is somewhat quite different. It remains relatively over-capitalised, but its growth rate fell until April 1983. Deposits from individuals and private businesses grew by less than 5 per cent against a 3 per cent the year before, while the loan momentum tumbled from a 32 per cent growth in 1981-82 to 7 per cent in spring of 1983. By the end of 1983, the bank had completed a five-year expansion with 120 branches, and very few additions were planned for 1984.

The branch explosion The most striking feature of the Saudi-ized banks over the last few years has been their aggressive expansion on the retail market. Over the period of 1980-83, Saudi-ized banks accounted for 55 per cent of all new branches opened through the kingdom.

Although two thirds of those new outlets were concentrated in the Western 149 branches and Central 1471 provinces, a remarkable push was made in the Eastern area with 33 new centers.

While a major breakthrough was achieved in the southern provinces with a total of 26 new branches, particularly in towns such as Abha, Jizan, Khamis-Mushayt, Najran and Al-Bahra, very little effort was made in the northern area where the Top Two continued leading the expansion drive. Three Saudi-ized banks have still no counter up north: Saudi American (Sambal), Al-Saudi Al-Hollandi and Saudi-British. The others are mainly concentrated in Tabuk and Sakakah.

However, this may change in 1984 since the north is the last virgin area as far as bank competition is concerned, and the province is benefiting from strong development programmes which could make business much more attractive for Saudi-ized banks in the future.

Saudi-ized banks had very few branches in April 1980, with Saudi British leading the way. It had 11 branches (bank to its strong position in the Eastern Province. Arab National Bank (ANB) now comes up, with a web of 63 branches as of July 1983.

The pillars of its network remain in the Central Province, where its head office is located. But ANB has shown an aggressive marketing strategy in the Eastern and Northern areas as well.

The only province where it was overlooked by a Saudi-ized competitor was in the Western Province, where Al-Saudi Al-Fransi comes third behind the Top Two. The latter enjoys the second biggest retail network of all Saudi-ized institutions, and has achieved remarkable success in the Southern area as well with the opening of seven new locations.

Running out of steam Although the branch expansion will go on through 1984-85, the pace of new openings is expected



Growth of branch networks

Banks	Branches in 1980 (April)	Branches in 1983 (July)	Rank in 1983 (July)
NCB	71	141	1
Riyad	53	115	2
Saudi British	11	21	7
Arab National	8	63	3
Al-Saudi Al-Fransi	8	41	4
Al-Jazira	8	23	6
Al-Saudi	5	16	9
Al-Hollandi	4	29	5
Saudi Cairo	3	17	8
Samba	3	17	8
Total (Source: SAMA)	171	464	

to drop significantly during this year (1984).

Though Al-Saudi Al-Fransi plans to open 14 new branches, a strong comeback is expected by Saudi Cairo which hopes to open 15-20 new centers in the wake of its 1982-83 management re-organization which forced it to delay openings.

For most other banks, plans for new branches have been curtailed compared to 1982 and 1983. The trend started when Saudi British closed two branches last year (one in Al-Khobar and another in Hafuf) and quite a few banks now find themselves with more branch licences from SAMA than they can really handle.

Part II next week

The Top Two

Est.	Ownership	Assets (in millions of dollars)
Nat'l Commercial (NCB)	1938 Binmahfuz and Nkl families: The bank is run as an unlimited liability partnership	14,835
Riyad Bank	1957 Wholly Saudi with The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency leading the show, thanks to 38 per cent of equity	7,779

Saudi-ized banks

Est.	Ownership	Assets (in millions of dollars)
Saudi American (Samba)	1980 Citibank of New York 40%	3,093
Al-Saudi Al-Fransi	1977 Bank Indosuez (France) 40%	2,846
Saudi Cairo	1979 Banque du Caire 40%	2,338
Al-Saudi Al-Hollandi	1976 Algemene Bank Nederland (Holland) 40%	2,043
Arab National	1979 Arab Bank (Jordan) 40%	1,764
Saudi British	1978 British Bank of the M.E.	1,760
Saudi Investment Banking Corp.	1976 Chase Manhattan (20%), W. German Commerzbank (5%), UK's J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Co. (5%)	1,627
Al-Jazira	1976 National Bank of Pakistan 35%	1,288

(1) Figure for 1981, since the 1982 balance sheet has still not been approved by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency.

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UDD opens two tenders for new contract

THE URBAN Development Department's Tendering committee on Tuesday opened tenders from the local Construction Engineering Corporation (CEC) and the China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) for the construction of schools and community buildings at the site of the Quweismeh new area building project.

The face value of the two bids upon opening was very close. CEC ended up with JD 874,046.810 after making a 4 per cent discount from its total estimate of JD 910,465.420; and CSCEC gave a total contract value of JD 889,177,700 for both schools and community buildings (without any discount).

Hanbo subcontracts for generators

SOUTH KOREA'S Hanbo General Construction Company is reported to have awarded in the Escher Wyss Division of Bell Engineering (Switzerland) a subcontract for the supply of two 2,100-kilowatt turbines. The turbines will be installed for hydroelectric use at the King Talal Dam, which Hanbo is raising under a contract with the Jordan Valley Authority.

Two anomalies

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

TWO SEPARATE big deals this week, involving the National Bank of Jordan and the Islamic Bank, have upset all the tables. Because of those two deals the total business on the market handling jumped to 120 per cent of last week, even though this week was short one day due to the Prophet's Birthday. Those two deals also caused the deviation around the daily handling average to rise by 38.5 per cent.

On the whole, however, the market handling continued to be faint. Those two deals did not affect prices in general, although the market average improved by 0.3 per cent.

During this week more than 600,000 shares were handled at a market value exceeding JD 1.5 million divided among 800 contracts. The daily handling average came to JD 400,000.

Banks

The volume of handling within the banks sector reached 79.5 per cent of the market total — an increase of 21.6 points compared to last week. Within this sector four out of 17 banks occupied 85.7 per cent of the sector's business or 68.3 per cent of the market total. The Islamic Bank had 39.2/31.2 per cent; National Bank of Jordan had 33.5/26.7 per cent; Jordan Securities Corporation 6.6/5.3 per cent, and Jordan-Gulf Bank 6.4/5.1 per cent.

Industry

Industrials sector had 14.4 per cent of the market — a decrease of 15.9 points from last week. Four out of 27 companies had 47.2 per cent of the sector or 6.9 per cent of the total.

Jordan Petroleum Refinery had 18.5/2.7 per cent; Jordan Ceramics 12.3/1.8 per cent; Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing 8.3/1.2 per cent, and Intermediate Petrochemical Industries 8.1/1.2 per cent.

Services

The services sector had 4.1 per cent of the total, a decrease of 3.6 points. International Contracting and Investments alone, from among eight companies in this sector, occupied 45.1 per cent of the sector or 1.8 per cent of the whole market.

Insurance

The insurance sector had only 2 per cent of the total handling, a decrease of 2.1 points compared to last week.

Two out of nine insurance companies occupied 59.6 per cent of the sector or 1.2 per cent of the total. Jordan-French Insurance with 31.9/0.6 per cent, and Yarmouk Insurance with 27.7/0.6 per cent.

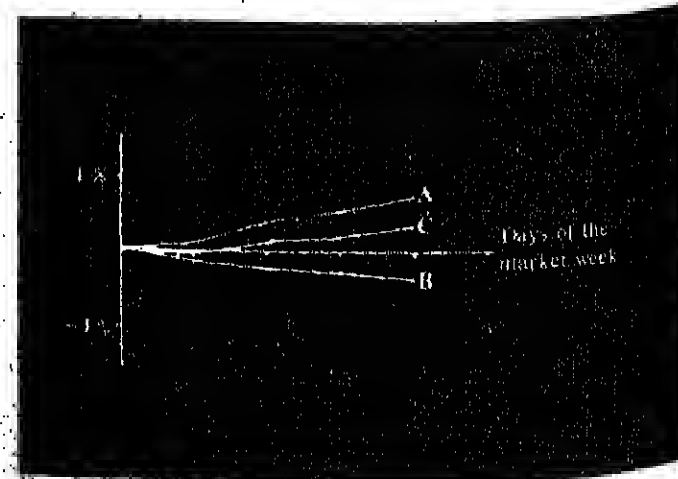
The shares of 61 companies were handled during this week. Prices declined outnumbered advances 29-19. Gainers included: Philadelphia Insurance, closing at JD 1.140 up from JD 1.260; Irbid District Electricity at JD 1.140 up from JD 1.100, and REFCO at JD 38 up from JD 37.

Yarmouk Insurance closed at JD 1.400 down from JD 1.550; General Insurance at JD 3.250 down from JD 3.400; Bank of Jordan at JD 32,000 down from JD 33,400; Dar al-Sha'b Press and Publications JD 1,200 down from JD 1,250, and Arab Exchange at JD 1,500 down from JD 1,560.

Thirteen companies showed no change in their share prices.

The Star price index at closing time came to 327.58, an increase of one point or 0.3 per cent. In the over-the-counter market over 218,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 140,000.

The weekly record



A. Companies showing an increase in stock prices
B. Companies with a price decrease
C. The mean record figure

'Camp David accords alive, efforts must be made to build on them'

'The only constructive step toward a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem that has so far been achieved'



Sultana Qaboos

count in the search for a settlement.

It must also be understood that the world as a whole — and particularly the United States and the West — have part to play in working for this settlement and in ensuring that it is equitable and satisfactory to the Palestinian people.

Q: Do you believe the Camp David accords are still alive or is some other approach now necessary?

A: The Camp David accords formed and still form, the only constructive step toward a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem that has so far been achieved. I certainly believe that the accords must be regarded as still alive and that every effort must be made to build on them. Further progress, has, of course, been hindered by Israeli intransigence but we must not be deterred this. There must be absolute no capitulation of Palestinian rights, but the search for a solution must be continued. All possible approaches that might lead to a peaceful settlement should be continually sought and pursued. And, as I have said, the United States must strongly play its part in this.

Q: Oman's oil reserves are now estimated to last for another 20 to 30 years. What are Oman's alternative resources? What are the plans for the Omani economy when the oil runs out?

A: Ever since my accession in 1970, I have insisted that the Sultanate's economy be diversified away from total dependence on oil. Fortunately, we have been blessed with other rich resources that if exploited, can play a significant part in achieving this aim.

We are moving steadily toward self-sufficiency in agriculture export projects for our refined copper are going ahead, our fishing industry has already been developed to the point where we are self sufficient in this staple commodity, and the Sultanate is on the point of becoming an ex-

porter, it is also planned to develop other resources such as natural gas, chrome, cement, asbestos, iron and even coal for the benefit of our people.

At the same time, the position regarding our oil resources is very satisfactory. New finds of high grade crude give an assurance that these supplies will continue for many years to come. Our oil industry enjoys an additional advantage. Our exports are made directly from our refinery and our crude oil terminal on the Gulf of Oman and therefore are not subject to the uncertainties imposed on the Gulf by the Iran-Iraq war and other threats of destabilization.

Q: We notice that Oman has recently borrowed \$300 million from a group of international banks. What has been the effect of the present oil market on the Omani economy?

A: Oil prices now seem to have stabilized at a satisfactory level — both from the producer's and the consumer's point of view, and I believe there is no reason why this stabilization should not be maintained. Although world oil consumption has undoubtedly declined recently, and carefully husbanded import requirements will clearly continue to be a factor for consumer countries in the present world economic situation, the inevitable continued industrial development and the drive to improve living conditions will be strong factors in maintaining demand.

Q: The navigable waters of the Strait of Hormuz go through Omani national waters. What efforts are being taken to protect this vital oil route? What support should Oman receive from the Eastern nations to assist in the protection of the Strait?

A: The main navigation channel through the Strait of Hormuz runs, as you have said, through Omani territorial waters. There-

fore, the Sultanate accepts a responsibility for doing all it can to ensure the safe passage of all peaceful international navigation. At the same time, in the light of the seriously unstable situation affecting the Gulf, we believe that all the Gulf states should be concerned with this matter, and that the Gulf Cooperation Council could play a part in offering a plan to help ensure the continued safety of international shipping.

I also feel it is right to expect the Western nations to assist with the provision of equipment and such other technical assistance as may be required, since they have a vital interest in preserving the safe passage of all shipping through the Strait.

Q: What are the relations between Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDY)? Does the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman (PFO) still represent a threat to Oman?

A: The agreement signed between the Sultanate and South Yemen last October was the first step taken for many years toward an eventual normalization of relations, based as it was on the Sultanate's long-standing requirement that there should be no interference by either country in the internal affairs of the other. Up to the present, South Yemen has observed the agreement, but we are naturally continuing to be very watchful.

Q: The so-called PFO has for many years now existed in name only as a communist front propaganda facade of no real substance. It poses no threat to the Sultanate.

Q: Oman has declared its adherence to non-alignment in the superpower rivalry. What is the effect on this actual course of

the Soviet involvement in the region through its proxies?

A: It is our aim, in concert with our brothers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to achieve the highest degree of self-sufficiency in all spheres, so that our region can avoid involvement in the superpower rivalry. I am happy to say that we and our brothers have made very significant progress to this end and I am confident that our continued cooperation in the future will be of the greatest value to the security and well-being of our peoples.

However, it would be folly to ignore the blatant expansionist plans of the Soviet Union — one has only to look around the world to see the reality of this threat and Oman must maintain and develop its relations with its friends in the world as a protection against these ambitions. I and my people have had first-hand experience of what this threat can mean to a small independent country, and we have no intention of becoming vulnerable to it again.

Q: Your Majesty's recent visit to the United States was a diplomatic success and underscored the defence relationship between Oman and the United States. Are you satisfied with your relationship with the United States? How does this relation affect your position of non-alignment?

A: I am very satisfied with my recent visit to the United States, it provided an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views between our two countries, and enabled me to brief the president and his officials on the situation in the Middle East and the problems that exist there. I am also satisfied with the Sultanate's present relationship with the United States.

In answer to your question, this relationship in no way affects our position of non-alignment. Our determination to work closely with our brothers of the Gulf Cooperation Council to attain political and economic self-sufficiency and also to remain aloof from the superpower confrontation is in no way incompatible with our intention to develop the Sultanate's relations with our friends of the United States and the West.

Omanpress

Reagan pledges secret military aid to Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — President Reagan has opened the door to future increases in US military aid to Israel through a secret undertaking following Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington last month Israel radio reported.

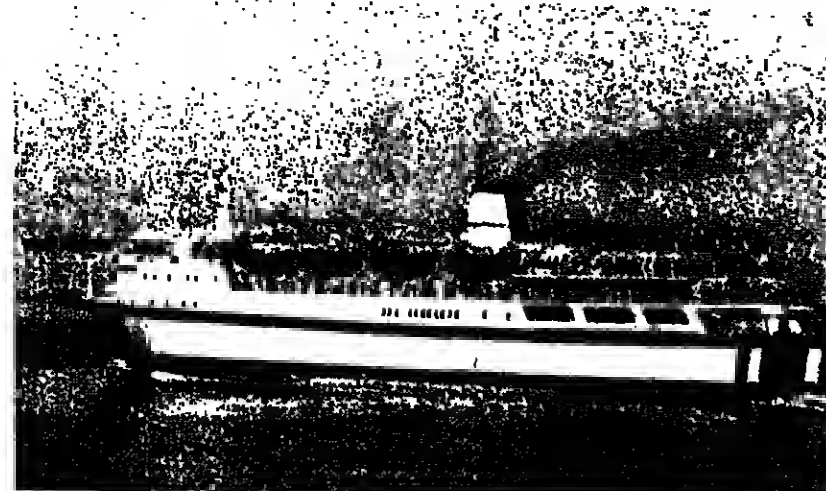
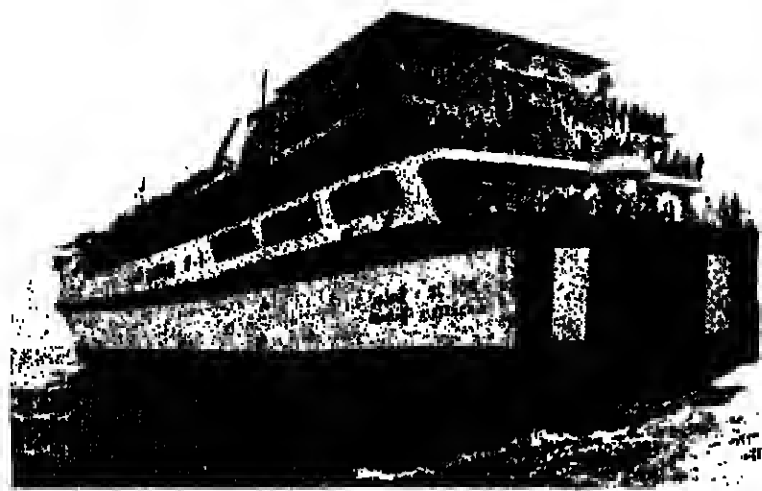
The radio said Mr. Reagan's undertaking came in a secret annex to Israel's economic aid request to the United States, and said he would show understanding of Israel's defence needs and fix appropriate military aid.

The document was delivered to Mr. Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens last week, the radio said. It said this was the first time any president of the United States had given a firm commitment in writing for future military aid to Israel.

The United States has allocated \$1.7 billion to Israel in 1984. The secret aid agreed by Mr. Reagan will be in the form of grants and will not add to Israel's foreign debt burden, now standing at over \$21 billion. However, part of the 1984 aid package was a loan. Mr. Reagan's undertaking will only apply to aid in 1985 and thereafter.

The radio's economic correspondent Gad Suenik said the secret annex had been worked on before and during Mr. Shamir's talks with Mr. Reagan in Washington. He quoted unnamed government officials as saying that it would be difficult for the Americans to ignore this document in future negotiations on US military aid to Israel.

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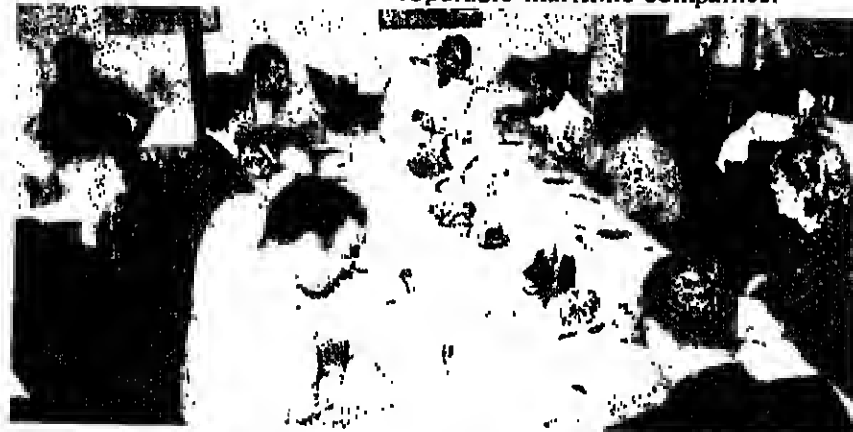
The company is also the agent of reputable maritime companies.

The passenger transport arm of the company provides regular voyages to Suez and back, the main customers being tourists from Arab countries and Egyptian nationals. The service is offered year-round on the comfortable cruisers. Group trips to view antiquities and other sites both in Jordan and in Egypt can also be chartered.

In addition to all the other benefits, passengers on Telstar cruises enjoy privileges including free transport of 150-200 kilos of baggage and good discounts for students.

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El Tor & El Arish schedule from 1/1/1984 to 29/2/1984

January:

EL TOR	02/1/1984	Monday
EL TOR	04/1/1984	Wednesday
EL TOR	06/1/1984	Friday
EL ARISH	08/1/1984	Sunday
EL ARISH	10/1/1984	Tuesday
EL ARISH	12/1/1984	Thursday
EL TOR	14/1/1984	Saturday
EL TOR	16/1/1984	Monday
EL TOR	18/1/1984	Wednesday
EL ARISH	20/1/1984	Friday
EL ARISH	22/1/1984	Sunday
EL ARISH	24/1/1984	Tuesday
EL TOR	26/1/1984	Thursday
EL TOR	28/1/1984	Saturday
EL TOR	30/1/1984	Monday

February:

EL ARISH	01/2/1984	Wednesday
EL ARISH	03/2/1984	Friday
EL ARISH	05/2/1984	Sunday
EL TOR	07/2/1984	Tuesday
EL TOR	09/2/1984	Thursday
EL TOR	11/2/1984	Saturday
EL ARISH	13/2/1984	Monday
EL ARISH	15/2/1984	Wednesday
EL ARISH	17/2/1984	Friday
EL TOR	19/2/1984	Sunday
EL TOR	21/2/1984	Tuesday
EL TOR	23/2/1984	Thursday
EL ARISH	25/2/1984	Saturday
EL ARISH	27/2/1984	Monday
EL ARISH	29/2/1984	Wednesday

TELEX 21604 JO Amman, Jordan

After the departure

By Ya'coub Jaber

THE DEPARTURE of PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his fighters from Tripoli, and the circumstances which surrounded the second agonizing Palestinian exodus from Lebanon raise questions about the future course of Palestinian action and how the parties involved in the latest drama view the PLO as a military and political power.

First, it must be noted with extreme curiosity that Israel made desperate attempts to block the Palestinians' departure through successive naval raids and political moves. Israeli leaders came up with different arguments against allowing Mr. Arafat and his men to leave Tripoli unharmed. But the nearest to truth was perhaps what was said by a senior Israeli official who wished not to be identified following an unusually long cabinet meeting last Sunday devoted to the Lebanese situation and Mr. Arafat's departure. The official said that Israel feared that Mr. Arafat's escape could lead to the reconstruction of the PLO and its re-emergence as a major political and military threat to Israel.

So it was not the dissidents with their tough rhetoric whom the Israelis fear, but the flexible and manoeuvrable Mr. Arafat, with his olive branch in one hand and gun the other. Mr. Arafat's compromising approach has given the PLO a respectable international status, to the extent that the number of foreign governments who now recognize the PLO exceed the number who recognize Israel. The anonymous Israeli official seemed to imply that if the PLO is to be reconstructed and regain its previous military and political strength, only men like Mr. Arafat can do the tremendous job.

Israeli worries also stem from other things, the most noticeable of which is the fact that the ships which were to carry the 4,000 fighters would hoist the UN flag, implying a reaffirmation of the world-wide recognition of the PLO and the legitimacy of its struggle. The United States did not object to the UN flag being raised above the ships; thus increasing Israel's feeling of unease over the whole process.

What made it worse to the Israelis was that a major Western power, France, has committed its fleet to the protection of the Palestinian departees against a possible Israeli air or naval raid. The survival of Mr. Arafat and his organization is apparently of major importance to Paris and other Western capitals, who continue to view the PLO as a key element for the success of any future peace effort.

It is still unclear what Mr. Arafat intends to do once he and his men reach the shores of safety and the PLO leader is settled back at his headquarters in Tunis. But there are no signs that Mr. Arafat will change his moderate approach, at least in the foreseeable future. He will certainly carry on with the political programme which he initiated few months ago, and in which a Jordan-PLO dialogue on political co-operation and co-ordination concerning peace efforts figures high.

If the Palestinian moderation is to continue, Mr. Arafat's approach and forthcoming moves need to be practically and effectively encouraged by those who say they are still keen to reach peace in the Middle East. If not, the whole world may become an arena for a bloody Palestinian-Israeli confrontation.

MOST NEWSPAPERS in the Gulf this week agree that the aim of the Kuwait bomb attacks was to cause panic and confusion in the Gulf area. They say that the unity of Gulf states, represented in the Gulf Co-operation Council, can foil attempts to spread chaos.

Al-Jazira, a Saudi newspaper, writes that if there are certain parties who wish to settle political scores with their foes, their actions should not be allowed to encroach on the Gulf's security and stability.

Al-Riyadh, also in Saudi Arabia, writes that no sensible man can claim that a country like Kuwait, which has exerted major efforts in rallying Arab ranks and honestly shouldered its pan-Arab responsibilities, should be rewarded by bombings.

It is complete insanity for anyone to claim that the language of dialogue, democracy and the practice of liberties can be accomplished by this destructive style," the Saudi paper adds.

In Kuwait, newspapers call on the government to not firmly against the perpetrators of the blasts so that Kuwait can remain a haven of security, stability and democracy.

The newspaper Al-Rai Al-Aam writes that the explosions should be viewed as one of several threats currently posed against the Gulf area. It calls for quick contacts among Gulf states, and for co-ordination to foil this subversive plan.

Many parties are interested in seeing the Lebanese plague extended to the Gulf, and there is no doubt that the United States has an interest in accomplishing that following its strategic alliance with Israel," writes the paper.

Al-Qabas, another Kuwaiti paper, says that the targets of the explosions are Kuwait's stability and security, not the United States and France specifically, since they have embassies and institutions in many other parts of the world.

"We cannot be deceived by the claims that the bomb attacks were aimed at the symbols of imperialism, because the control tower of Kuwait airport is not the Eiffel Tower and the electricity distribution station is not a US nuclear installation," remarks Al-Qabas.

Summit call

Two Gulf newspapers call for the holding of an Arab summit conference to cope with the mounting challenges facing the Arab states.

The Qatari newspaper Al-Arab says that recent developments in the Arab region, and the serious escalation in the aggressive policies of the United States and Israel, call for an urgent Arab summit to forge a common approach against the mounting dangers.

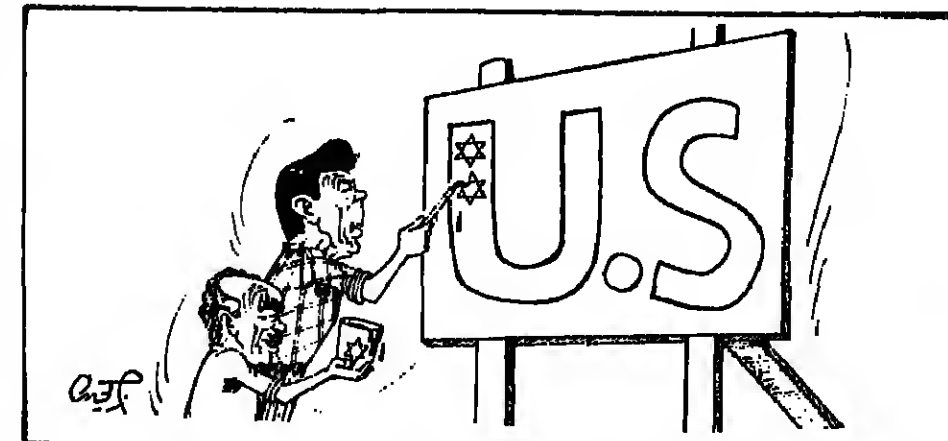
The Abu Dhabi newspaper Al-Fajr says a date for the summit must be fixed as soon as possible, and Egypt should be invited to attend.

"The holding of the summit is not the objective because what is required is to ensure the success of the conference," writes Al-Fajr.

Ad-Dustour daily in Amman describes the explosions as a criminal attempt to shake Kuwait's security and stability, with the aim of terrorizing and blackmailing Gulf states so that they might ask for the protection of foreign powers. It says this puts a big question mark on the identity of those behind the blasts.

Egyptian newspapers renew their attacks on US policies in the Middle East. Al-Ahram daily says the United States has signed its strategic alliance pact with Israel at a time when the world community has condemned Israeli inhuman practices in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and southern Lebanon. It adds that Israel has succeeded in dragging the United States into involvement in policies which can be met only with total rejection by defenders of peace and advocates of justice, equality and security for all.

Noting that the UN General Assembly has recently adopted a series of resolutions denouncing the Israeli policies such as the continued building of settlements and collective punishment, Al-Ahram



adds that the new resolutions were adopted when Israeli naval forces were shelling Palestinian positions in Tripoli while the Palestinian fighters were preparing for their departure from the beleaguered north Lebanese city.

Al-Bayan, a Dubai newspaper, criticizes the use of the gigantic US battleship 'New Jersey' in the indiscriminate shelling in Lebanon, saying that the ship's use signals the beginning of action under the US-Israeli alliance. It warns that Washington's actions must be countered by a firm collective Arab action.

Commenting on the departure of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his men from Tripoli, Al-Rai of Jordan writes that the United States bears moral responsibility for the safety of the Palestinian fighters on the high seas. It says Washington's responsibility stems from its strategic alliance with Israel, which makes it a full partner to any Israeli action.

"Israel cannot carry out its threats to attack the fighters aboard the ships without prior consultation with Washington; the United States thus cannot claim neutrality if the Israelis put their threats into effect," asserts Al-Rai.

Israeli press

In Israel Hatzofeh newspaper predicts "new rounds of open conflict within the Israeli leadership following the announcement that there are no differences between Prime Minister Shamir and Deputy Premier Levy. David Levy looks forward to being in charge of foreign affairs while Shamir is not willing to give him this control," Hatzofeh says.

Former Defence Minister Sharon thinks of himself as a candidate for foreign minister, and is ready to fight Levy inside the Knesset party to achieve his ambition. There are other liberal ministers who complain against the unfair distribution of portfolios, and they long for the foreign minister's post.

The problem lies not in the foreign affairs portfolio but in the fact that the Shamir government is a copy of Begin's, Hatzofeh writes.

Al-Hamshahar says that the Arab child from Nablus, Aishah al-Bahsh, was assassinated in cold blood by Israelis who opened fire while in no danger. "Is the blood of the Arab child less red than Jewish blood?" the paper asks. The assassination of the Arab child in Nablus is but a mean act of terrorism, it says.

"What is the meaning of incriminating the PLO for the Jerusalem bus bomb if we do not uproot the seeds of terrorism from inside us?"

Yediot Aharonot comments on escalating violence in Palestine. Death on a bus in Jerusalem, the assassination of an Arab child in Nablus, time bombs placed in Muslim and Christian religious places and clashes between stone-throwing Arabs and vigilante Israelis "represent a horrible chain of violence and hatred," it says.

The unsatisfactory action on previous incidents has increased fears about the escalation of violence. The police must put in further efforts to reach the culprits responsible for recent acts.

"Still, police efforts should go along with political efforts; or else they will be useless," Yediot writes. The government had the opportunity to follow that line when a

flash of light appeared through the clouds of blood and hostility, with West Bank leaders' condemnation of the bus bomb.

Maariv writes that the percentage of "corrosion" of the last three months' salaries will reach 30 per cent, thus implying that families will be unable to meet 10 days' expenses each month. The only answer of the Ministry of Finance is to resume negotiations on the advance, it notes. "The Histadrut has to perform its mission by leading the struggle of workers," Maariv declares.

Davar recalls that in December 1982, 400,000 government and public workers went on strike protesting against the injustice done to them regarding wages and social terms. Ever since then their conditions have worsened, while corrosion in their wages reached 30 per cent.

"It is natural that bitter feelings prevail among government and other workers that urged them to go on strike. We must not blame them because they ran out of patience towards the ever-increasing prices."

The responsibility for the deteriorating labour relations falls on the government, which is not capable of providing a fair answer to the fair demands. If the Finance Ministry fails to take steps, the situation will go from bad to worse.

Hamodia writes that the current wave of strikes did not surprise those who know about labour relations in Israel. What is surprising is the attitude of Israeli ministers towards the shaky labour relations, it says.

"If we want to prevent violation of the wages agreement, we must stop talking about measures against workers and do something else to help the situation, such as slicing the budget and paying the advance," Hamodia says.

Champions

Koteret Rashit says the finance minister was not surprised by the 15.2 per cent increase in the cost of living for November. Cohen Orgad seems to have the qualities of his predecessor, Aridor, by not manifesting surprise towards any economic failure.

"We are seeing a new economy moulded by Orgad, who thinks that inflation is not an urgent issue, but the deficit in the balance of payments is! The finance minister is not only disregarding inflation but he is permitting this inflation to reach a record level, as it did in November."

With the efforts of the Ministry of Finance, inflation will reach 200 per cent by the end of the year. With a little effort we shall be the champions of the world, when we delegate our financial team to the Olympic games to represent the highest inflation ever," the paper says.

Haolam Hazah: "The Knesset has approved additional taxes on high-income categories and on children's allocations. These taxes represent the disability of the finance minister to achieve his own goal: to narrow the gap in the balance of payments. Although the planned reduction of the budget was to be \$2 billion, the Ministry of Finance sliced off \$1.4 billion."

"All signs indicate that the public understands that the party is over, and the daily corrosion of wages is making everyone think twice before saying anything. Under the circumstances, it seems that the government is the only party to have any faith in currency notes."

The Jerusalem Star

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The day after

THE EVACUATION of PLO fighters and their leader Mr. Yasser Arafat from Tripoli on Tuesday should not be considered as a victory for Syria, Libya and Israel. It was a day of shame for all the Arabs and a dark scar that will tarnish their history and shatter their beliefs.

The historical and political consequences of this exodus will have effects on our lives and those of our sons and daughters for a long time to come.

The more immediate results, which will take place now at a rapid pace since a major political and military power — the PLO — has been weakened are first, Israel can now say with relief that its major goals from its invasion of Lebanon last year have been achieved. In reality, the evacuation of PLO forces from Lebanon is probably something even Israel's generals did not expect to happen in such a short period. The Israeli government will go ahead with its scheme of threatening the Palestinian existence inside the occupied territories through massive expulsions and expanded settlement policies. It can now have more space and liberty in creating local centres of power that will conspire to mislead the Palestinian opinion into accepting Israel's terms. Our hope lies in the firm Palestinian willpower to reject and oppose such schemes and thwart them.

Second, on the Arab scene, the area is almost ripe for a stage where the Palestinian representation can be bargained with and used for a purpose that will achieve only Israel's interests and those of its allies. The Arabs are either confused or unaware of the conspiracies that are being implemented around them.

Third, the United States will find it now easier to present its version of a "peaceful settlement" to the Middle East problem, where the interests of Israel and the West will come first and not the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians. The weakening of the PLO, even if it is temporary — will give the United States the opportunity it needs to force its reasoning on the people of this region.

We can expect many changes to occur in the coming few months that will add to our shame and humiliation. Our hopes can no longer rest on the old or present generations to overcome the coming losses. They will turn to the children who were born on that black day: Tuesday, 20 December 1983.

The grand showdown

THE UNITED Nations General Assembly has voted by a large majority to condemn the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States, saying that the alliance would "support Israel's war capabilities and consequently its aggressive acts." The resolution was passed by 81-27 votes.

We mention this not because we believe that the vote will have much effect on either of the parties concerned — experience has shown better than that — but simply as an example of how far the US can go in ignoring the demands of the peace-loving world community when it gets fixed on a certain idea. The US, and particularly the current administration, is so obsessed with the idea of the Middle East as a point of confrontation with the Eastern bloc that it is determined to make it into such a point, no matter the cost. Now that President Reagan has the "be in his bonnet," so to speak, he won't stop until his rather macho sense of how to behave internationally is satisfied.

Looking back on the events of the past years, it has become clearer than ever that the Americans have been directing their efforts towards a crash shows of force in the Middle East — first through their sanction of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and then directly, through the installation of American troops. The US Marines, who arrived in a "peacekeeping" guise, were then withdrawn just long enough to permit that peace to be brutally violated; and finally returned to Lebanon — indefinitely, as it now seems. The Marines and their back-up fleet were thus conveniently in place to take swift action as soon as the new Israeli-US pact was signed.

Mr. Reagan clearly thinks that armad force is the only way to halt the growth of Soviet influence anywhere in the world. He does not stop to consider that the more he aligns US military strength with Israel, arming it far beyond the innumerable strength it already has, the more he gives incentives to the Arabs to look elsewhere for support. They must meet the threat posed to them, and that threat, in its essence, has nothing to do with any East-West conflict. It is a confrontation over the land, over the deprivation of a people's most basic rights. This may appear to Mr. Reagan to be a mere sideshow to his grand showdown — but he will learn differently.



No peace without justice

By Dr. Jamal A. Shurdom

IT IS obvious that the Arab negative picture is seen in the "editorial page cartoons" almost daily. Americans and Europeans have been seeing this picture on television screens and some times on theatre stage and commercial reasons.

The unreal picture brings to a simple naive man that the Arabs are just "rich" and reflects devious looking with a macho gun. They say this would be the European and American stereotype of the Arabs. In a simultaneous concept, this stereotype could easily fade to an insult being waged on the Arabian identity and personality in order to just illustrate the negative perception of Arabs.

Unbelievable time and work have been devoted to build up that Arab negative image. What it seems clear that Israel and the Zionist lobby to Europe and the USA are attempting continuously to cream the Arab community and keep them ineffective with no influence and show them as undesirable kind of people to integrate with. The question arises: Is it true....?

The public opinion, sometimes shows that influence on the Arab image by witnesses which admit that every citizen is always portraying the face of an ugly Arab. Very seldom you see a face of a real, good looking Arab. Many Europeans and Americans have told me to person that the Israeli lobby introduces the worst type of "racism" which it might objectively do as the beginning to violence, despite the existence of ineffective pro-Arab committees and the Arabs States information offices in Europe and the USA also, the Arab migrants activities etc. What seems certain is that Arab embassies have no challenge to such strategy. Arab representatives, lobbyists, and agents have

been working with no direct influence and without parading the Zionist or the Israeli lobbyists. It is worth to say that American oil companies indirectly seem to positively influence by working closely with Arab oil producing states to assist the Arab side in terms of public relations to contribute to the Arab states' interests by using their spheres of influence towards improving the image of the Arab people.

Generally, Europeans and Americans seem to believe in a myth of the Zionist illusions about the Arabs especially the Palestinians because they are the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinians' new approach of modernization and simultaneously with Israel's inhuman savage role in Sabra Wa Shatila and with the outcome facts of the Israeli Committee of Inquiry report about Begin-Sharon massacre. The public opinion seem to gradually changing toward the truth and to the right direction where the exact picture of Zionist aspirations of expansionism illustrated. Israel's negative behaviour and intentions are visibly seen aftermath of the Sabra Wa Shatila. This behaviour contradicts with the real definition of human peace, and with any one who seeks to live in peace.

Americans and Europeans, and to whom it may concern, should search for themselves the "truth of reality" rather than being influenced by the illusion of Israel's self-influenced propaganda. Simultaneously, they should distinguish between the "right" and "wrong" and support the "right" to achieve their rights. Remembering that there will be no peace, where justice does not exist.

The writer is a professor of political science at Jordan University

letters

Stamps for Jordanian plates

To the editor

This may be one of the more unusual requests that your office has received, but I would appreciate any assistance that your office may be able to provide.

I am a collector of automobile license plates, and I am trying to obtain a number plate from Jordan for my collection. I was wondering if anyone in your office or of your readers might be able to help me with my search.

If there are any stamp collectors, I would be glad to offer cancelled Canadian postage stamps in exchange for a number plate.

Any help that you could give would be very greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and trouble.

Alan Bones
2-91 Cartier Street,
Ottawa, Ontario,
Canada

Kamel
Abu
Jaber



The strategic co-operation agreement Part III

Greetings to Jerusalem!

ONE IMPORTANT result of the conclusion of the strategic agreements between Israel and the United States is that it has made the area, the whole Middle East area, more of a wide-open free-for-all than it ever was. Our shores, skies, open spaces, towns, cities and deserts seem to be there for the take. Israeli ships lay siege to Tripoli and refuse to agree to the evacuation of the Palestine Liberation Organization leadership from that city. Daily, and for weeks now, Israel has bombed the Lebanese coast while their war planes fly overhead reeking more damage and death.

In the West Bank, Defence Minister Moshe Arens defies the idea of blowing-up Arab homes in retaliation for terrorist acts. French ships had to escort Greek ships that carried Mr. Yasser Arafat and his 4000 men. An American flotilla of warships is also there frequently bombarding "enemy" targets along the coast and to the mountains while American war and reconnaissance planes fly overhead.

While the United Nations general assembly leisurely "decides" on condemning Israel for her "expansionist," "annexationist" tendencies and the US Israeli strategic agreements that encourage those tendencies, no one knows what will happen next. Israel, it is clear, wanted to prolong the siege of Tripoli in the hope that Mr. Arafat will eventually be captured by his opponents. Yet, at best neither he, nor anyone else knows where there is a spot for him on the face of this earth. Like his people, the Palestinians, he is condemned to the fate of the "wooden Palestinian".

And he and his people, the Palestinians, have come to symbolize the whole Arab world, the pariah of mankind and the puechleg bag, weakling of the neighbourhood. Ninety-three wounded freedom fighters, Palestinians have already been "evacuated". Some were flown to Egypt, others elsewhere. Mr. Arafat and his 4000 men had to be "evacuated" under strong French naval cover to other parts of the world including perhaps Yugoslavia and Greece. It should not be forgotten that Israel refused to guarantee the safety of the Palestinians. In a way one does find such a request to be a contradiction in terms!

Sunday 18 December 1983 radio Israel reported that the United States army developed a laser type weapon that will cause blindness. It is our hope that Washington will not make this weapon available to Israel under the terms of the strategic agreements. Neither Israel nor the Arabs need it. Israel because it already has enough other lethal and more destructive weapons, and we, because we do not need more blindness. As it is, the cave in which we live is dark enough and the tunnel too long with no light in sight. Neither is there any likelihood that any leader in this generation is capable or willing to take the lead.

The tragedy of the strategic co-operation agreements is that they were, in the words of President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, totally unnecessary. Israel was already powerful enough with the whole Arab world and beyond prostrate before her powerful war machine. "Alliance against whom?" was the title of a recent article in the Jordan Times 19 December 1983. Indeed against whom? Was there anybody in the Middle East or for that matter, anywhere, that was posing a threat, serious or otherwise, to Israel? ... her security or her power and prestige? For somehow, the whole area has become totally open and defenceless and without immunity before any invader or outlaw from wherever he may come. The strategic agreements only exacerbate that already existing situation, adding further insult to injury.

These agreements might have served some purpose if they were only an assurance to further Israeli security, an assurance that would lead to her better behaviour in the area and that might entice or force her to conclude an honourable meaningful peace with the countries of the area. Instead, it seems it has only served to increase Israel's arrogance and intraisraelite and, in our Western land of the Middle East, Malice has received another strong dose of evil.

As far as Arabs, the agreements may, in a negative way, turn out to be a good thing. We may come to the realization that we have no place to go, and no excuse to hide behind all we have left to us is to dig in, to build our defences and to prepare for the fight to come. A fight that seems inevitable.

opinion The limitations of democracy

THREE ITEMS of news, all of recent occurrence, have in fact called for the handling of this subject of democracy as it is practised in the so called free world.

One was the procedure taken by the American administration over a year or two ago to expel a good number of civil aviation communication personnel when they had gone on a strike for higher wages which had disrupted civil aviation services. The second was the relative success that an extremely right-wing party in France, strongly prejudiced against the stay of alien immigrants in the country, has scored on the provincial elections for local government quite recently. And the third has been the decision taken only last week by the Trade Union Congress in England to call off a strike which the National Graphical Association had urged on a nation wide level, and which would have involved the stoppage of all British newspapers for twenty four hours on Tuesday 19 December, 1983.

Prior to TUC's decision, the NGA had been fined £670,000 by the court for its appeal to its members, the press, printing workers, to urge a picketing campaign against a local newspaper group in northern England, and also for court contempt, in defiance to the conservative government's new laws curbing union power.

All the above mentioned events point out that there is something wrong in the democratic machinery of capitalist countries. The claim that such democracy often puts forward as regards the protection of the freedom of protest and of self-expression of the minorities — be these trade union workers, civil servants, or foreign immigrants — seems to be groundless or at least not fully guaranteed.

It is as if what certain critics see in George Orwell's "1984" concerning the transformation of democracy towards the end of the century, as prophesied by the British novelist, into a sort of police government dominated by the dictatorship of "Big Brother" — the central machinery of intelligence service backed up by

the nation-wide computerization of each individual's data — is in a way coming true.

To claim that pure democracy exists anywhere is a sheer fallacy. But to expect that parliamentary democracy under a capitalist system is able to be fair towards all sectors of society is to ask for the impossible. Capitalist

By Henry Matar

democracy had better be described as an oligarchy that has been established through the influence of the well-off few to exploit the uninfluential many. This was the form of democracy that was established in classical Greece even under the enlightened rule of Pericles in the fifth century BC. The council of the five hundred, formerly known as the Ecclesia, received elected members from among the free citizens of Athens, but it deprived a considerable class of slaves — exploited by the well-off free citizens — of their right to free voting. The same story has been repeated in the modern democracy of capitalist countries.

It is the democracy of the middle class, or to be more precise, the democracy of the 'establishment' that is behind all the display of democratic practices in the west. As long as the 'establishment' has the monopoly of power mainly derived from the monopoly of finance, financial investment and economic policy of any country, the conflict between the strong and the weak will remain flaring until the deprived many take over.

Besides the monopoly of finance, the establishment has also the monopoly of mass-media information. Through this monopoly it manages every four or seven years to nominate its candidates to the nation's representative house — be it a parliament, a congress, a national assembly or whatever it might be.

Through both its monopolies of finance and propaganda, the

'establishment' makes the general public believe, through brainwashing very often, that its candidates are the only upholders of true free vote for all. Sometimes, it happens that the way the general elections are held, deprives a good part of the population, especially the unwanted sector, of giving its free vote; while on the other hand it gives a financially influential minority a greater say in public affairs than it normally deserves.

Hes not the Zionist lobby in America always managed to influence foreign an economic policies in that country? In spite of all that is said about the absence of racial discrimination in USA, and in spite of the big advances this issue has so far achieved there, does not Rev. Jesse Jackson, the black candidate for 1984 presidency, face the danger of being openly persecuted just because he declared his stand by the rights of Palestinians?

Even in England, the traditional stronghold of western democracy, the conservative establishment has managed to curb the power of trade unions, either by passing anti-labour legislation, or by buying off the labour influential leaders. As long as the worker has not as yet acquired the right of the factory ownership or the right of ownership of the tools of production, and as long as the peasant is unable to shake off the shackles of monetary and investment monopolists, the many will have no access to real democracy. Democracy will remain a shame pretence.

One really wonders how all those thousands and thousands of masses holding demonstrations in protest against the installation of nuclear weapons in Western Europe are not able to have their say against the decision of the central few who have been turned into office by the so called democratic parliamentary elections. It seems that traditional democracy is facing a real dilemma. Things have to be restudied or changed. Otherwise, dictatorial fascism, signs of which are already looming large almost everywhere, will become a reality.

Memorandum

We are the enemy

WITH THE departure of Fatah fighters from Tripoli this week an old page in the history of Palestinian struggle comes to a sad end while a new one begins. The general theme seems to be the same, that is, the diaspora and national loss.

It is painful to watch the events of the past two weeks and wonder what the future holds for all of us. It seems that the Arabs have proved to be experts in losing every war, battle or skirmish with the enemy. We realise, when Israel and the United States come closer to each other under strategic covers while we forget that our confusion, disunity and selfishness as individuals and governments are all major factors that have contributed to Israel's survival for the last 40 years or so.

I sometimes wonder as I study our society and its diverse aspects who the real enemy is and where does it dwell. I wonder what our young soldiers are training for and what are they protecting with their lives.

How long can we accept to live in this poisonous society, where we have no identity, no

principles and no future. Our liberties seem to diminish every day like our lands and strength. Our children are living in so many controversial climates that nothing binds them together anymore. The rich will fight for his wealth and the poor for a piece of bread and a tin roof above his head. Some of us discuss winter holidays, new-year parties and hair styles while others on the other side of town worry about their little babies' health and the price of bread and the coming winter. What society is this and who the hell are we? I feel sorry for that Palestinian fighter "Abu nobody" who is embarking a slip for the third or fourth time away from the demolished cities with shanty refugee camps and instant cemeteries with people buried with no names or titles. Does he still remember what he is fighting for and against?

Away from the smell of death, humiliation, conspiracies and betrayal, theirs should be a safe shore and a happy ending somewhere. But before that, blood shall fill the streets and heads will roll and newly-built houses will crumble like biscuits. They will not be our animes' streets or heads or houses. They will be ours, because we are the enemy.

opinion

Jewish Expansionism



Palestine as proposed by the Zionists in 1919

IN MARCH 1919, the Zionist delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, circulated extensively its plan for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. The boundaries of this future state were to be, according to pages 303-304 of the book "The Jewish State", written by Mr. Ben Halpern, a Zionist, as follows:

In the north the boundary would start at a point on the Mediterranean Sea in the vicinity of Sidon and would follow the watersheds of the foothills of the Lebanon Mountains as far as Jisr el Karaon, thence to el Bire, following the dividing line between the two basins of the Wadi el Korn and Wadi el Talm. From el Bire it would follow, in a southerly direction, the dividing line between the eastern and the western slopes of the Hermon to

By Nicola J. Kattan

the vicinity west of Beit Jinn. From here it would start moving eastwards following the northern watersheds of wadi Mighayliyah (which later, becomes known as wadi al 'arran), close to and west of the Hijaz Railway.

In the east the line would run southwards, close to and west of the Hijaz Railway, to terminate in the Gulf of Aqaba.

In the south the frontier would extend from el Arish, in Northern Sinai, to Aqaba in the south.

In the west the frontier would be the Mediterranean Sea.

This is to a large extent corroborated by General Patrick Hurley, the personal representative of President Roosevelt in the Middle East, who in a report to his Government, dated 3 May 1943, said: "The Zionist Organization in Palestine has indicated its commitment to an enlarged programme for:

1) A sovereign Jewish State which would embrace Palestine and probably eventually Transjordan.

2) An eventual transfer of the Arab population from Palestine to Iraq.

3) A Jewish leadership for the whole Middle East, in the fields of economic development and control.

Soviet aid to Third World shows decline

By John McCormick

THE SOVIET Union gives little development aid, and limits that little to a few chosen countries. These policies may be weakening its influence in the Third World.

Faced with a world recession, low commodity prices and shortages of foreign exchange — all of which have made them more conscious of their dependence upon Western aid — developing countries once closely linked to the USSR are beginning to turn to the West for the kind of help that the Soviets either cannot or will not provide.

While the bulk of Western aid goes to 31 developing countries, the USSR limits itself to six countries with which it has special links: Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam (members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance — Comecon); Afghanistan (occupied by Soviet troops); Laos Cambodia.

Most Soviet aid — estimated by the British foreign office to total more than \$5 billion annually — takes the form of grants and subsidies to help commodity trading. In 1982, for example, the USSR paid Cuba four times the world price for its sugar, bought Mongolian meat at above world prices, and continued to sell its oil to Cuba, Vietnam and Mongolia at reduced prices.

Aid is also given for development projects such as the copper-molybdenum ore dressing plant at Erdenet in Mongolia and Cuba's first nuclear power station, at Cienfuegos. In addition, Cuba and Vietnam were given free military aid worth \$300 million and \$150 million respectively in 1982, and Afghanistan received an estimated \$200 million in direct military aid in 1981.

The USSR said its foreign aid in 1981 constituted 1.3% of GNP. This seems to compare very favourably with the average 0.35-0.45% by Western countries. But a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimated that the USSR had reached this figure by underestimating its GNP and including types of aid not counted by Western governments.

Western diplomats interpreted the subsequent Soviet defence of its position as evidence that the Soviet government takes criticism of its aid policy seriously. And Western governments such as Britain and the United States, facing criticism for their own aid cuts, are eager to call attention to the USSR's low level of development help to the Third World.

It has traditionally relied on the USSR and Cuba for military assistance, but now feels that the only really effective deterrent to South Africa lies in the kind of pressure the West can exert. Mozambique has three times been refused entry to Comecon, and is now considering membership in the International Monetary Fund and the EEC's Lome Convention.



Calculating the percentage on the same basis as Western nations, the OECD concluded that Soviet aid amounted to 0.14% of GNP. "Official development aid" by OECD countries in 1981 ranged from 0.19% of GNP (Italy) to 1.08% (Netherlands).

The recent European tour by Mozambique President Samora Machel showed the changing attitude of countries with

close Soviet links. Mozambique has an external debt of more than \$1.1 billion, is torn by fighting against rebels it says are supported by South Africa, and faces the constant threat of South African attacks on alleged African National Congress bases.

(Earthscan)

ADC to educate Americans on the Arab cause

By Khader Mansour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — "AMERICAN-ARAB Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) since its inception in 1980, has had as its major goal the elimination of discrimination against American Arabs," said Dr. Zogby, a prominent member of the (ADC) in The Star recently in an interview.

Dr. Zogby, whose father originally a Lebanese Maronite, was born in New York city in 1945. A doctor of philosophy in "Comparative Religion" and a frequent visitor to Jordan and a brief visitor to Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Tunisia, Zogby said that the ADC has made a remarkable accomplishment within the American public opinion which, he stressed, the Arab world could not do so far. "We have organized 20,000 committed members to our committee in 45 American cities from all Arab nationalities, Muslim and Christians from all walks of life... University professors, doctors, engineers, businessmen, skilled and casual labourers including increasing numbers from the 'second generation'," he added.

The ADC has also provided useful services in American-Arab and American organizations, which favour the ADC objectives. At the top of these services comes the Children's Project — "Save Lebanon". The accomplishments and growing strength of the organization has made an integral part of the American life and coalition. Commenting on the present US election campaigns, Dr. Zogby, said that for the first time ever, two double candidates of the Democratic party for the presidency, Jesse Jackson and George McGovern, in their campaign, preaching the cause of the Middle East in a sensible, objective and just manner, while all Am-

erican candidates had only propagated the Israeli views and aspirations in the past.

Jesse Jackson and George McGovern, in their speeches, he pointed out, are justifying the creation of a statehood for the Palestinians and explaining how best can Lebanon restore its genuine freedom and



Dr. James Zogby

Independence which, of course, mainly lie in the withdrawal of all foreign forces — with no exception — from the Lebanese soil, and the normalisation of Lebanon's relations with all Arab countries. Through such an approach and efforts, he indicated, "we are going to change the quality of 'Debate' in the Middle East, whereby an invariable and sound answer can be heard from those who escape them-

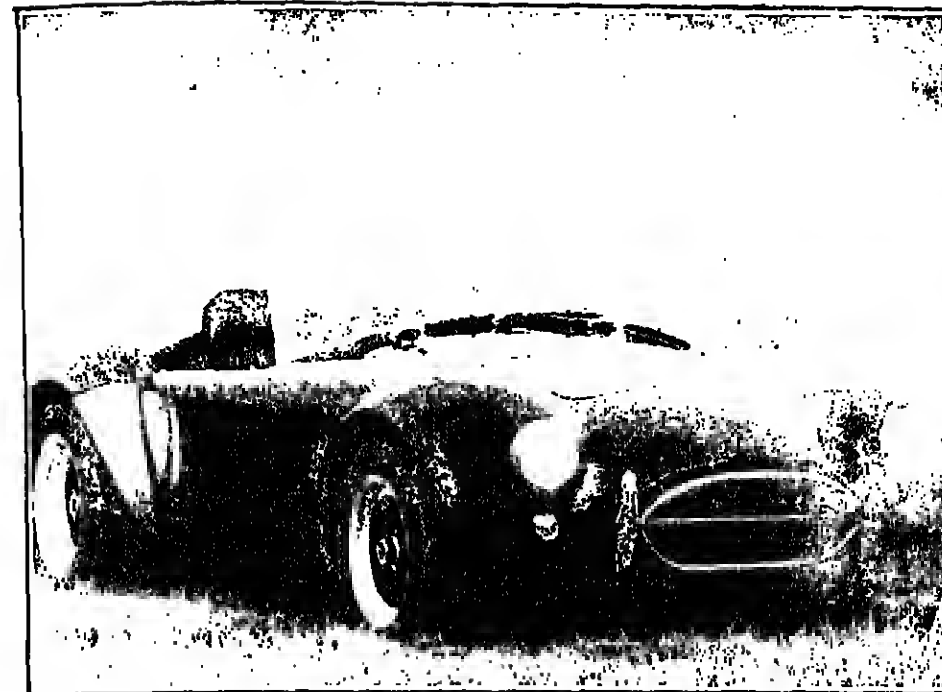
selves from reason and common sense... and whereby a real American democracy can best be put into practice away from wishful-thinking words.

Dr. Zogby, went on to say that the American masses though they know very little about the real facts, they are on the whole totally dissatisfied with the Israeli-American attitude with regard to the Middle East conflict... all their concern is to see the American Marines return home and no billion dollars are given to Israelis at the expense of the American masses.

Speaking of the American thoughtful politicians he said they are generally afraid to challenge the Israeli lobby. In responding to how far the effect of American public opinion can straighten such a depressing situation he said the American public opinion, is an unorganized mass, as there are certain small groups (very well organized) who have a violent attachment to Israel, even a greater attachment to the US. He went on, it is important to know that such a Jewish lobby, includes non-Jews who for different reasons, blindly support Israel, some are fanatic anti-Communists with a kind of attitude that Israel is a colonial West-European Post... another group, the fundamental Christians like Jerry Falwell, the third group includes established organizations in the Jewish community.

It is to be understood that many Jews and most Christians do not support such policies, especially organizations from the Vietnam days... in addition to the mainline, Protestant Churches and the Black groups.

"The bounden and pressing duty of the ADC is to organize as many as Americans and educate them about the justice of the Arab cause, primarily, the Palestine and Lebanese issues... and, especially the US interests," Dr. Zogby concluded.

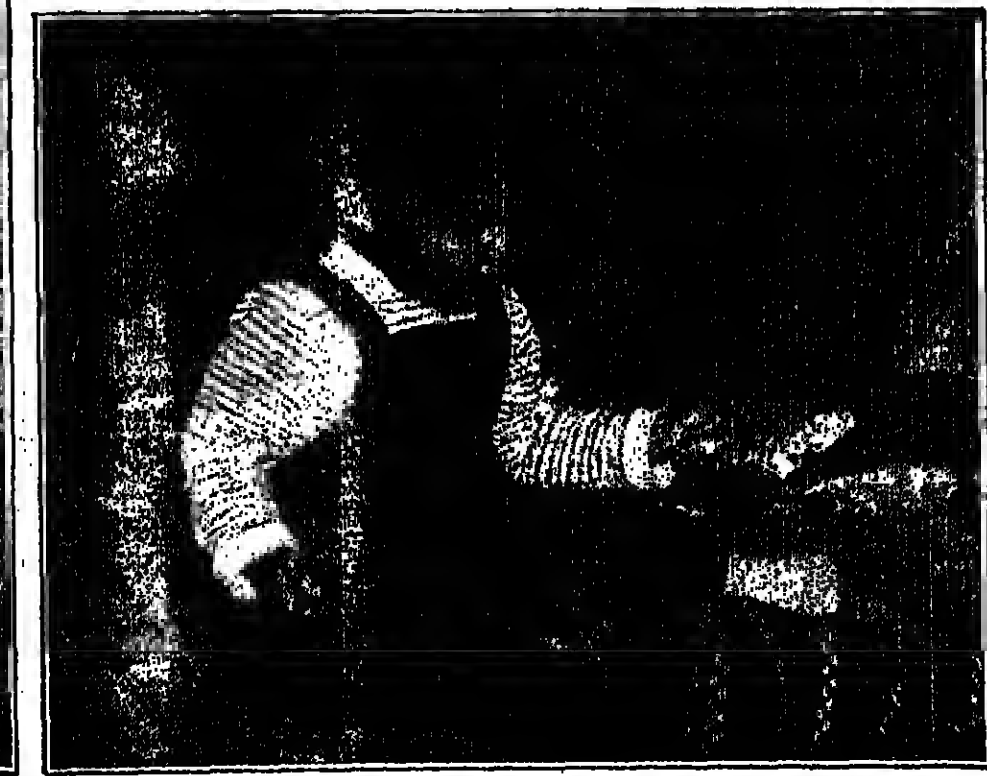


The
Jerusalem Star

HOLIDAY GUIDE



Christmas and New Year, 1983-84



Kawther
PURE NATURAL
MINERAL WATER

منبع
الكوش
مساهمة معدنية طبيعية فائقة

تحت إشراف شركة المياه المعدنية العربية - الأردن، ص.ب. ٩١١ عمان، هاتف ٣٣٣١، تليك ٥١٧٥ أرف.ج



It may look a bit crowded — but this was a slow time in the department store this week!

Christmas

Crowds of shoppers get into the spending spirit with a will

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

TWAS THE week before Christmas and all through the store there were laughter and songs and the bustle of people.

This was the atmosphere at Al-Waha Stores, Amman's leading department store, when The Star visited to get a taste of the holiday spirit. Al-Waha has made a big effort to bring about the spirit of Christmas and Christmas shopping. Santa — although now a mechanical version — stands within the main entrance welcoming customers and wishing them a happy holiday.

Christmas carols and songs are played over the loudspeakers and the colourful decorations, as well as the goods on display that cover nearly all the needs of customers, collaborate to revive the spirit of Christmas.

Daytime shopping, despite the holidays, is still nothing extraordinary; but it picks up after office hours — and on the evening when The Star visited, it was packed.

A young lady and two pre-teens, who seemed to be her younger sisters, showed their enthusiasm for the coming holiday as they warmly

laughed over a private joke and discussed family gifts. It turned out that this young lady, Muna Majali, was the mother of the 11 and 12-year-old girls.

"I enjoy Christmas very much because it has a very lively feeling to it. You can't help having fun during the season," she says. "Christmas is for everyone, and the same goes for every holiday."

"My mother puts up a tree for every single religious holiday, and it is fun to always get presents," said daughter Riham in a shy but eager way, to confirm her mother's, as well as her own, joy for holidays.

The only thing that slightly dims the season is how expensive Amman has become. "But I am not going to let it spoil the spirit," says Muna, assuringly. She began preparing for this holiday months ago, as she bought what she needed bit by bit.

"Christmas is my favourite holiday and I love it," said Samia Abboud, who works with Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. "It carries along with it a lovely atmosphere full of excitement." She added that Christmas celebrations in Jordan have improved tremendously over the last few years, especially this year as it seems to have come to life.

comes to life



A mirror holds special fascination among all the items on sale

The decorated Christmas trees several stores have on the sidewalks, the Santas ringing their bells and the carols and songs played in most shops all collaborate to give one the feeling that Christmas is in the air," she said. "It is a pity that we will not have a white Christmas."

Samia believes that the jovial atmosphere is reinforced partly because people want to forget, for a while, about the tragic events incidents that are taking place worldwide.

Young ladies were clustered around the area where almost all young lady customers are found in any store — at the cosmetics counter. Meha Hin-nawi, a nursery school teacher as well as a psychology undergraduate at the University of Jordan, was found sampling the several shades of lipstick with her sister, an agriculture undergraduate at the same university.

"We always look forward to Christmas and especially this one, because my sister and I are to graduate

Continued on page 10



Kids have always loved a Christmas tree (Naser Namroult photos)

WELCOME to The Star's Holiday Guide, where we hope to present you with some ideas on where to go, what to do and what to buy during the Christmas-New Year season this year. Also included are some stories about new stores and services in Amman, and last but not least, a bit of the old Christmas cheer. Happy holidays!

- Shopping pp. 2-3
- Christmas as it used to be p. 4
- A new way to enjoy the holiday p. 5
- Where to go pp. 6-7
- The latest in cars pp. 8-10
- Some Christmas sentiments p. 11
- Fashion and beauty this year pp. 12-15

Reem Pharmacy introduces convenience shopping

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan is beginning to benefit from the application of advanced commercial concepts, and this is beginning to become apparent in several sectors. As far as pharmacy services are concerned, this can best be demonstrated by words of praise given to one of the new entrants on the scene:

"My hearty congratulations to Reem Pharmacy for showing how it can be done in Jordan," said one international specialist on the occasion of the pharmacy's opening last week.

Mr. G.M. Durant, the Middle East sales manager for Elizabeth Arden products, said that Reem Pharmacy, which opened on 11 December in Ab-

dall, "is the sort of pharmacy that is long overdue in Amman. It has refreshingly high-class shop fittings and a high standard of services. This pharmacy cannot fail with such qualifications and presentation."

The pharmacy, which is located next door to the Jordan Express Tourist Transport (JETT) bus terminal in Abdall, takes its name from Pharmacist Reem Sabbagh, its owner. It offers the full range of prescription and other pharmaceutical services under strict control. But much more than a pharmacy, the store is a leader in offering consumer necessities on a wide range of fields — quickly and easily.

The shopper is offered a hand-carry basket to move around the shop and take his or her pick from the items on display, ranging from perfumes to toothpaste and shaving

creams and including all kinds of leather goods, sunglasses, ornaments and baby products. Estee Lauder, Germaine Monteil and Elizabeth Arden are only a few names among the internationally-famous brands that are offered.

Speaking of convenience, Reem Pharmacy stays open until 10 p.m., making it one of the very few places in town one can go to find late-night necessities. Any day of the week. Along with that, the pharmacy plans soon to initiate a home delivery service, better to serve its customers.

The new pharmacy is provided with central heating and air conditioning for its customers' comfort. Comfort which, along with convenience and service, put it in the forefront of shopping places in Amman.



The bright exterior of the new pharmacy



Dazzling displays covering a wide range (Photos by Hassan Ibrahim)



Personalised service from Amman's own international courier company

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN has become the hub for a new courier service which specialises in moving packages and documents to, from and within the Middle East.

The service is Aramex, and Amman was chosen for its headquarters because of its excellent airline connections, inexpensive and responsible labour force and good year-round climate.

Aramex was established by a group of Arab and American businessmen who wished to improve the quality of courier and express package delivery service in the Middle East, while at the same time cutting prices.

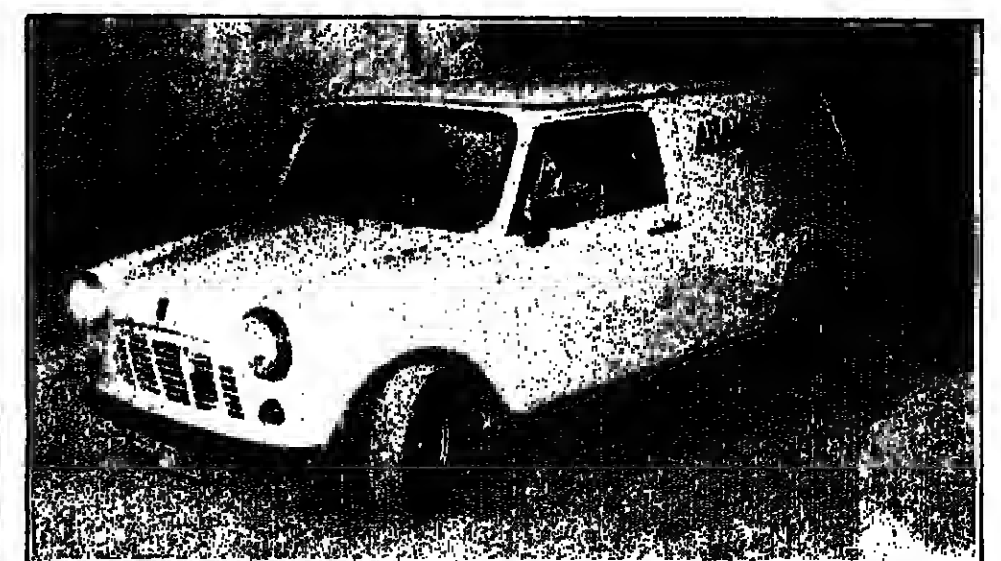
The company prides itself on the total control it maintains over each item assigned to its care. Where other couriers will consign shipments to regional delivery services or route their Middle East shipments through various European stations, all Aramex packages are handled by the firm's own employees in every city they serve.

Staff say that because Amman is so well served by connections to the U.S., Europe and the rest of the Middle East, any package arriving in Amman is on its way to its final destination within hours. Because operations are so centralized, tracing and other problems are minimized.

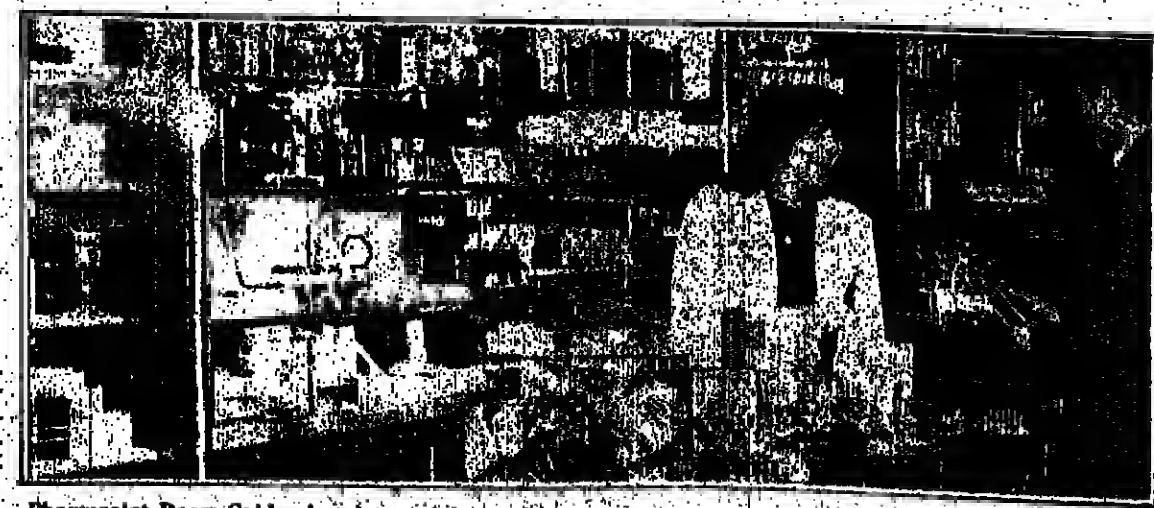
This also helps to reduce operating costs and overhead expenses, and these cost savings can be handed on to Aramex clients.

As the reputation of Aramex grows its range of clients is expanding steadily and now includes banks, exchange companies, oil companies, law firms, universities, shipping companies, travel agents and a variety of other businesses.

The company is able to move all types of urgent shipments, including documents, tender responses, computer tapes, film and videotape, medicine and pharmaceuticals, spare parts for aerospace uses, automotive equipment and all types of financial instruments.



Documents and parcels are routed through Aramex's headquarters in Amman (top left); delivery and pick-up are speeded by door-to-door service (above), and packages of all shapes and sizes find their way through Aramex (below).



Pharmacist Reem Sabbagh enjoys a joke with a customer

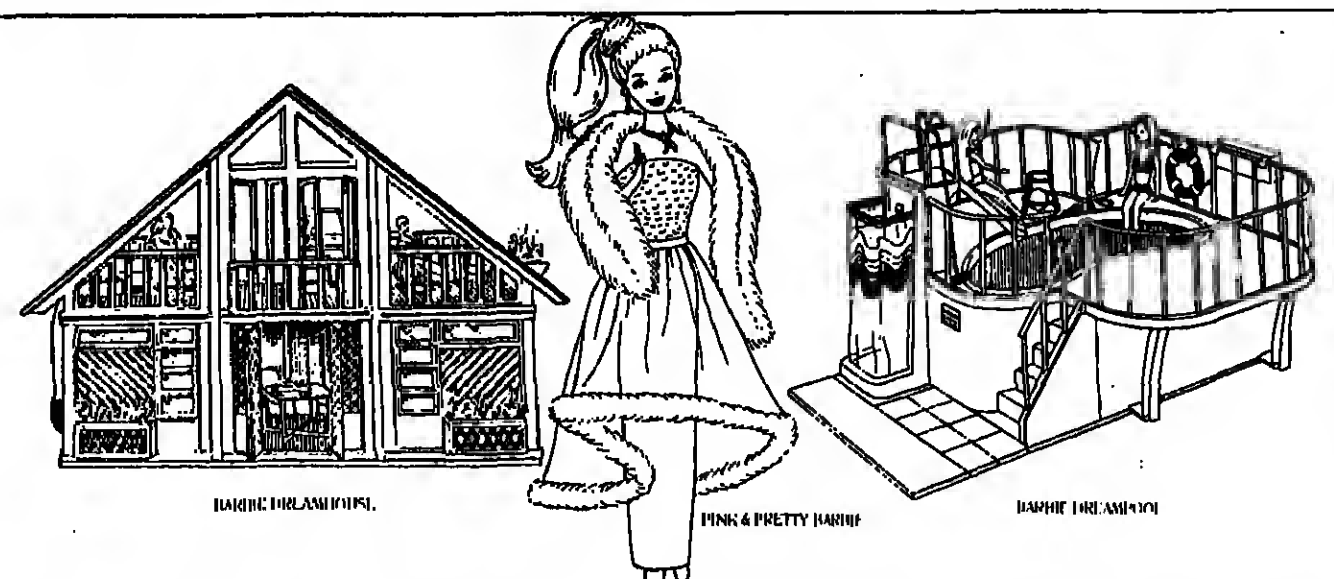
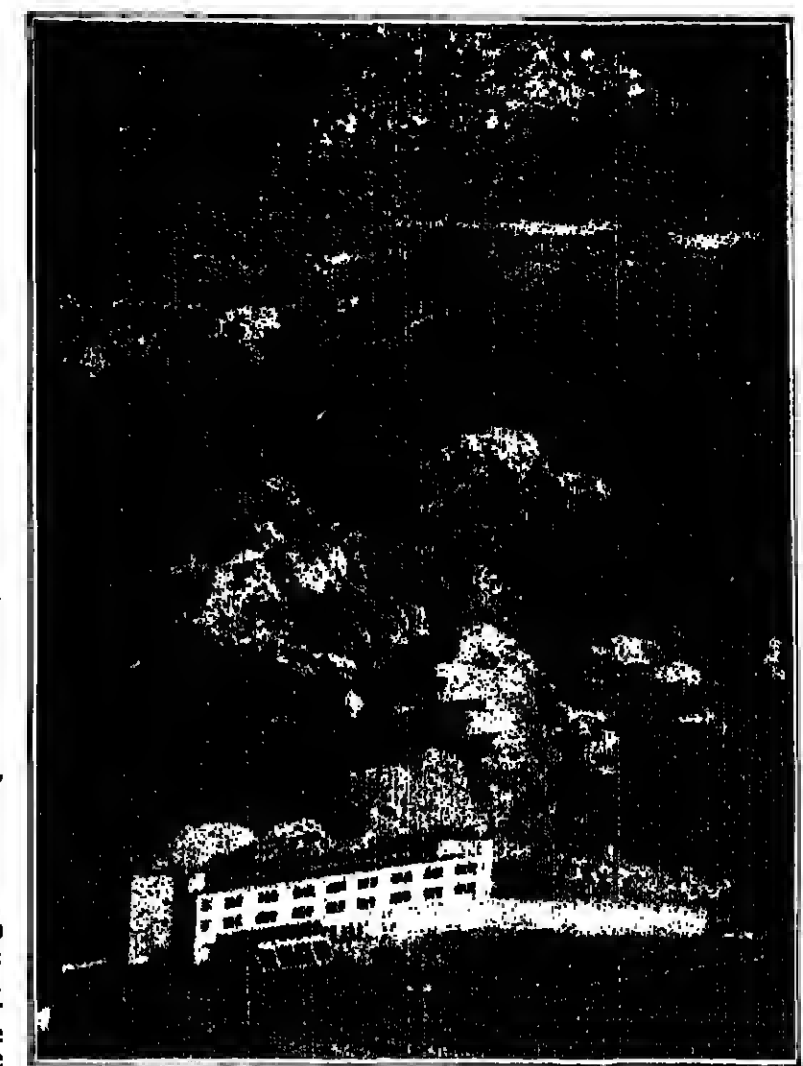
WHERE TO GO...

The men also had their share in Christmas preparations. They went out to the farmlands to select and chop down a small but sturdy fir tree which they proudly brought back home. Children helped in decorating it — although the ornaments used then were rather simpler than those of today. A wooden

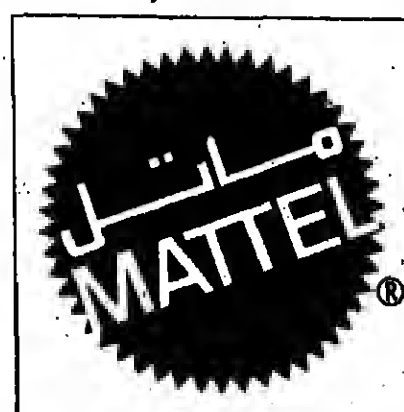
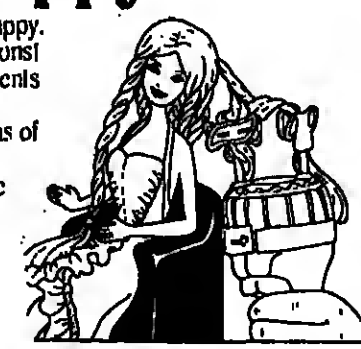
Older people recall that there were no Christmas trees or Santa Claus, and seldom were there any New Year's Eve celebrations, for these western customs had not then reached the East Bank town.

For Christmas, guests can book one, two, three or four-day stays; and for New Year, one, two or three nights — plus the full nine-day package that is offered. The rates range from JD 30,200 per person for the Christmas Day stay to JD 198,300 for nine nights 23-31 December. Special prices are also offered for children. Altogether, the packages promise to provide an unforgettable holiday!

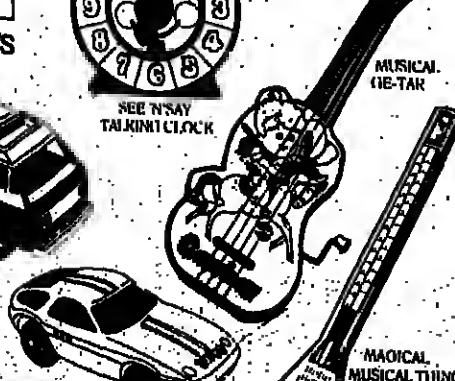
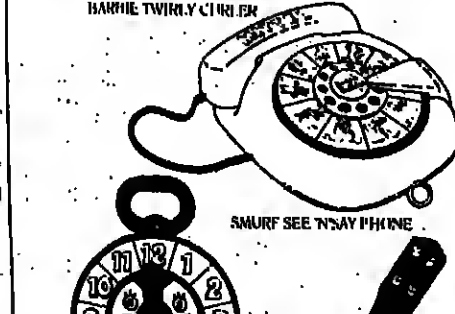
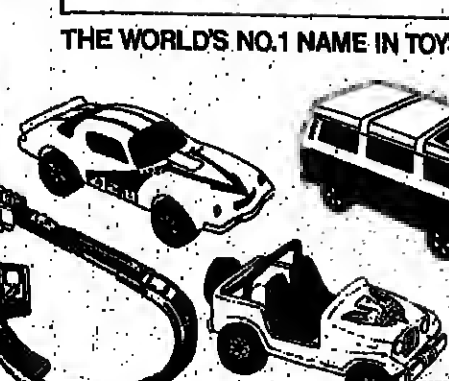
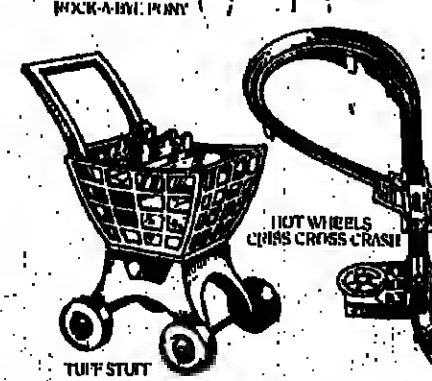
The Petra Hotel, set amid spectacular beauty in the Wadi Musa area



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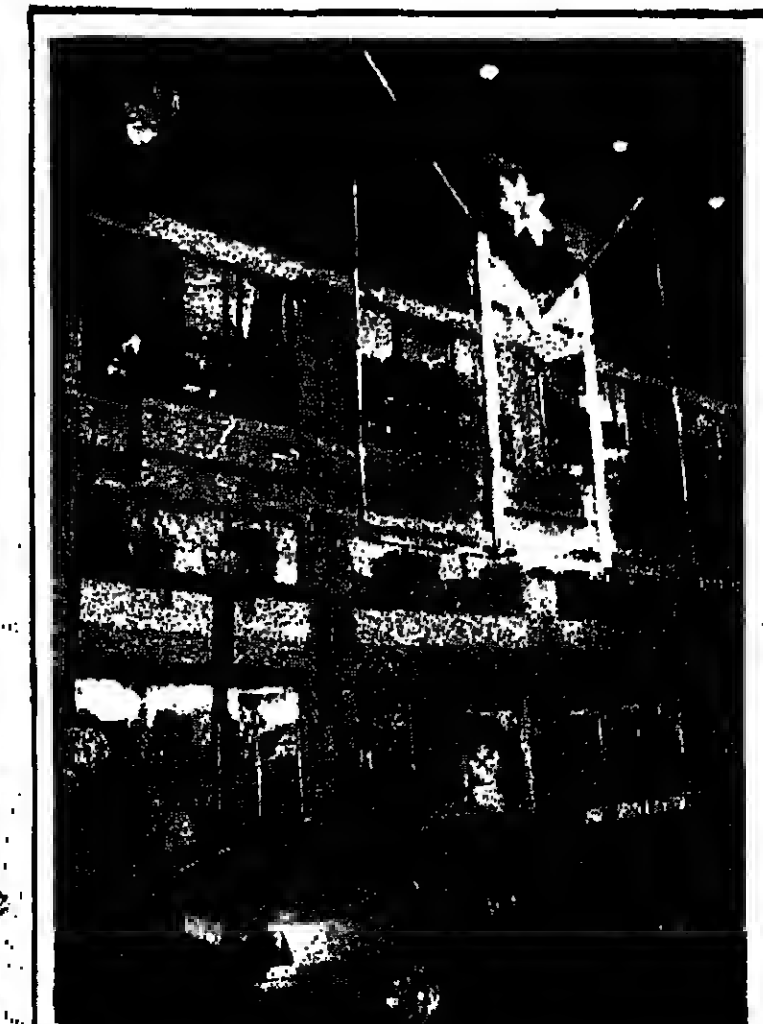


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New Year's brunch with a large, relaxing glass of orange juice. What better way to start off the new year?

Jericho Room

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hotel events give no rest WHAT TO DO....

By Star Staff Writer

ties for children that are laid out at Amman's hotels this holiday season. As well as being a big fun occasion for kids of all ages, this time of year can be a big crowd-puller for

those places that have events planned.

The Amman Marriott Hotel is offering a free children's Christmas party in its lobby for three days, starting from 22 December. Santa will be waiting for them from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on those days. Nearby at the Regency Palace, a puppet show, held in co-operation with the Haya Centre will be presented with a lunch and buffet. This goes with the hotel's children's party at 12 noon, 23 December. Children will be charged JD 2.500 and parents can join the fun for JD 5.

The Holiday Inn presents its children's party on 23 December at 3 p.m., at JD 3.500 per child. But for children who are dedicated cartoon lovers, the San Rock Hotel offers cartoons along with games from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m. also on 23 December. The price is JD 3 per child, with parents free of charge. The Middle East Hotel comes next, with its party from 4-6 p.m. on 24 December at the Diwan Coffee Shop for JD 2 per child.

Finally, on Christmas Day, the Jordan Inter-Continental will hold its party on Christmas Day

at 4 p.m. in the Al-Badich Room for JD 3.500 per child, parents free.

A child, or parents, have the choice of the days between 21-24 December to go to the Tyche Hotel between 3-5 p.m. for JD 2 per child. Pre-teens are welcomed to a party of their own on Boxing Day, 26 December, from 3-5 p.m. at JD 3 per person.

Sit down and eat

More staid? For those who would rather dine in relaxation on the day before Christmas, as well as Christmas Day, the Inter-Continental will offer a luncheon buffet of international and Arabic dishes at the Al-Mukhtar Ballroom, along with entertainment by local band the Falcons. It opens at 1 p.m. on Christmas Day, at JD 8 per person. JD 4 for children.

Christmas Eve will be observed at the Holiday Inn with dinner at the Ambassador Nightclub — and entertainment — for JD 25. Christmas goodies a lunch buffet plus dinner are also offered at the Marriott on 24 and 25 December. Al-Mansaf Family Restaurant, Al-Walimeh Restaurant provides an elegant atmosphere with soft music.

Along with a delicious Christmas menu, the San Rock will present an oriental show at the Qasr Roof Nightclub. Arabic, English and French songs will be sung by the Ararat Band. Well-known actors and singers such as Yaseen Bakoush, Naji Jabber (also known as Abu Antar) and Daoud Rudwan, among others, will be participating. The show is on for 24 and 25 December, at JD 15 per person.

The San Rock Coffee Shop also offers a Christmas dinner on 25 December for JD 5.500 per person. The Holiday Inn's buffet dinner from 12 noon to 3 p.m. will cost JD 7.500 (children JD 3.750).

Lunch and buffet at the Regency Palace on Christmas Day will cost JD 6 per person, and JD 3.500 per child. Those who would like to have a gala dinner can fulfill their wish either on 24 or 25 December for JD 12 per person. A candle-light dinner can be had at the Crown Rotisserie of the Inter-Continental, with the music of Elias Faza on the 24th and 25th.

Where the action is

The Inter-Continental has the Shalee dance show, straight from the UK, performing nightly at the Al-Pasha Disco. Meanwhile the Disco Cavern Club at the San Rock offers fun and games along with Christmas carols, songs and dancing on 24 and 25 December — JD 5 per person.

If you want to keep moving before New Year's Eve comes around, the Holiday Inn is putting on a dinner dance with floor show on 27 December, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. for JD 15 per person. And on the 29th, a Fancy Dress Ball will be held at the Ambassador for JD 25.

Auld Lang Syne

New Year's Eve will be welcomed with excitement, especially at the Marriott. The Baba Night Club offers a buffet with several Arabic appetizers with fun and games. Local pop star Charles Metropolis will be there to present a selection of songs as well as the Arlet Disco Stand in floor dance — all for JD 10 per person. The Marriott's Al-Waha Ballroom will come to

to partiers

like with the Rotor Band Show, as costumes enjoy a gala menu with champagne and a toast at midnight. As door prize, a free trip to Seoul is offered. Admission is JD 8.

A special buffet for families will be held at the Madafa Restaurant in the Regency for JD 6, children JD 3.500. The New Year's party there will be held at the Albi Nightclub, presenting the Sequence Band and an Egyptian show by the Sawki Na'im Group for JD 30 per person.

Jasmine, the Canadian belly dancer, will be performing at the Middle East Hotel starting with the buffet at 9 p.m. Other well-known performers such as singer Joseph Salameli will be there to participate in singing in the New Year, JD 25 per person.

For those who missed the Christmas celebrations at the San Rock, the oriental show and

dinner at the Qasr Roof Nightclub is offered again for JD 25 on New Year's Eve, as well as the Disco Cavern Club show — admission JD 7.

The Crown Rotisserie back at the Intercontinental is to offer a lovely gala New Year dinner with music by the Amman Trio for JD 18.

But at the Holiday Inn, the partiers — and the performers — will really be kept busy New Year's Eve at the Ambassador Nightclub will cost JD 30 per person — that's with entertainment provided by resident band Images, the floor show by the Aristocrats and Roslan, the Inn's American bellydancer. The hotel's ballroom will offer dinner and dancing for JD 25 — with the same entertainers. And you can then dance in the New Year at the hotel's disco for JD 15. At the elegant Churchill Restaurant, Chantilly Trio will accompany the New Year's Eve diners.

A New Year's Day luncheon buffet for families will be held at the Inter-Continental's Crown Restaurant for JD 6. For a New Year's breakfast buffet, the Okaz Restaurant offers its Riser Kebab from 7-11:30 a.m. And the Holiday Inn has a special New Year's Day buffet at the Ambassador from 12 noon - 3 p.m., for JD 10.

Tired out?

Those who miss simple gatherings for Christmas caroling can join in, free of charge, at the lobby of the Marriott with the Marriott Madrigals. The programme started on 16 December and runs to Christmas Day from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. daily.

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CHRISTMAS 1983 AND NEW YEAR PROGRAMME

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23rd December, 1983

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Santa Claus is coming early this Christmas to give you a very special afternoon of fun and games. Cakes, sweets, drinks and a very Lucky Dip.

24th December, 1983

★ **AMBASSADORS**
See Christmas Day in with our resident Band and a traditional Eve Dinner.
Hot Punch will be served at Midnight.

25th December, 1983

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

★ **LUNCHEON**
A special Christmas buffet lunch with all the festive trimmings in our Ambassadors Restaurant, Top of the Inn.
★ **DINNER**
Come for the famous TURKEY SHOOT in the RANCH.
27th December, 1983

★ **AMBASSADORS**
A Dinner and Dance, fully inclusive, with entertainment provided by our resident Band, a spectacular Floor Show and Oriental Dancer.
29th December, 1983

★ **AMBASSADORS**
Fancy Dress Ball with music provided by our resident Band and Entertainers.
31st December, 1983

★ **AMBASSADORS**
An unforgettable New Year's Eve at the Holiday Inn. Amman. Includes a gala dinner, dancing to a live band, a spectacular floor show and Oriental Dancer.

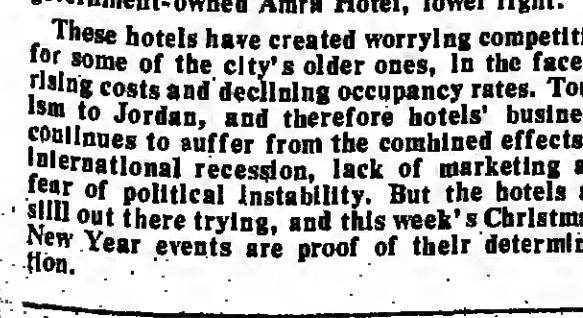
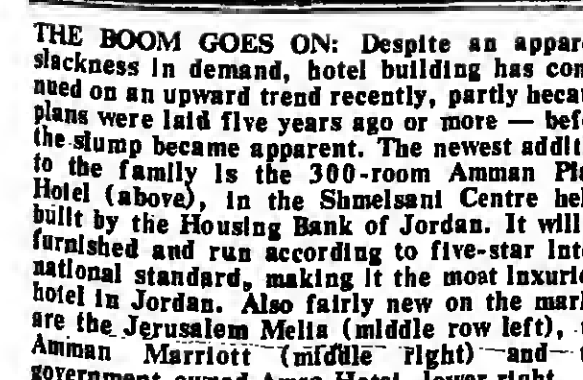
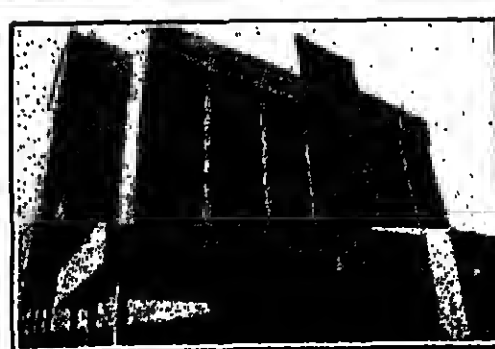
★ **AMMAN BALLROOM**
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A special New Year's Eve in the Robin's Disco Theatre. Includes a gala dinner, dancing to a live band, a spectacular floor show and Oriental Dancer.

★ **CHRISTMAS**
A special Christmas Eve in the Holiday Inn. Includes a gala dinner, dancing to a live band, a spectacular floor show and Oriental Dancer.

★ **NEW YEAR'S DAY 1984**
A special New Year's Day in the Holiday Inn. Includes a gala dinner, dancing to a live band, a spectacular floor show and Oriental Dancer.

For information and reservations call 21145



THE BOOM GOES ON: Despite an apparent slackness in demand, hotel building has continued on an upward trend recently, partly because plans were laid five years ago or more — before the slump became apparent. The newest addition to the family is the 300-room Amman Plaza Hotel (above), in the Shmelsani Centre being built by the Housing Bank of Jordan. It will be furnished and run according to five-star international standard, making it the most luxurious hotel in Jordan. Also fairly new on the market are the Jerusalem Melia (middle row left), the Amman Marriott (middle right) — and the government-owned Amra Hotel, lower right.

These hotels have created worrying competition for some of the city's older ones. In the face of rising costs and declining occupancy rates. Tourism to Jordan, and therefore hotels' business, continues to suffer from the combined effects of international recession, lack of marketing and fear of political instability. But the hotels are still out there trying, and this week's Christmas-New Year events are proof of their determination.

AMMAN
Marriott
HOTEL

ماريوت
عمان

CHRISTMAS

Christmas carols will be sung by the Marriott Madrigals in the lobby, beginning on Dec. 16 and continuing through Dec. 25, between the hours of 12:30 noon and 2:30 p.m.

Santa Claus will greet the children in the lobby on Dec. 22, 23 and 24, between 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m.

Al Mansaf
Luncheon and dinner buffets will be served on Dec. 24, and the luncheon buffet on Dec. 25. Price is JD 8.500 per person.

Al Walima
The regular a-la-carte menu, plus our chef's Christmas food creation.

THE LATEST IN CARS....

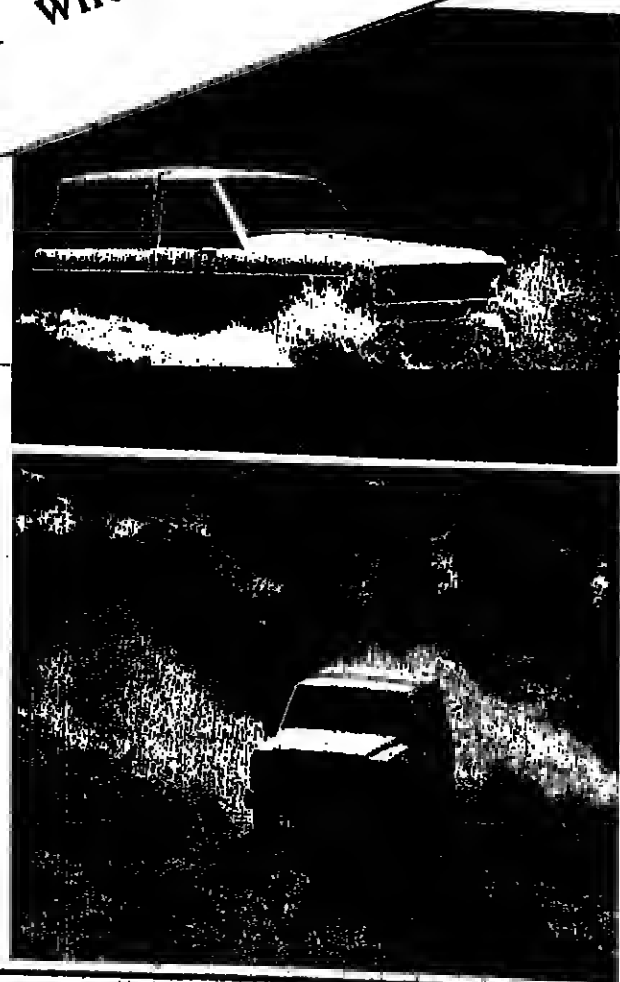
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Bustami and Saheb Trading Company
Amman - Al Mahatta Street; telephone no.: 51271/51272



Jordanian auto dealers looking forward to '84

Economic slowdown led to lower demand for all makes of cars in the Jordanian market during 1983. But dealers told The Star that with their new models they hope to see some strengthening next year...

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer

CAR DEALERS in Jordan are approaching the New Year with great optimism, confident that their new 1984 model cars — already on sale — will draw positive reaction from buyers. Manufacturers, especially of the increasingly popular Japanese brands, are still improving their models, and this year have added many technical and design improvements to increase their cars' attractiveness.

Accordingly, dealers hope that sales during the coming year will hold steady, and may even increase, despite a slackening in demand that was experienced over the past year due to economic difficulties. The same comments were heard from several agents The Star talked to, representing makes such as Toyota, Datsun, Volkswagen Audi and BMW.

One example of 1984-model improvements is the Toyota Corona, which for 1984 is offering more space in the passenger cabin and boot; reduced vibration along with increased ventilation volume; more power and efficiency in the various engine types offered, along with technical refinements in the suspension and steering systems. The Corona has been completely restyled on the outside, too, as have some of its competitors.

However, Mr. George Hadad — Toyota's marketing representative — stresses the quality of the car itself less than the after-sale services and maintenance his company offers. "Our obligation is to support our clients," he says. The Toyota service garage has a computerised parts section as well as up-to-date equipment and machinery. Two experts sent from Japan support the service department and are also engaged in training Jordanians from vocational schools.

Mr. Arafat Saheb of the Bustami and Saheb Trading Company, agents for Nissan (Datsun), pointed out that his firm tailored their products to the Jordanian market, offering the specifications and options, as well as the model line, to suit

Jordanians. Nissan provides cars to suit all tastes and needs, he said.

Nissan is also a leader in service. Its new garage, now under construction, includes a new workshop, modern spare parts department, advanced equipment and a computerised inspection system. Nissan in Jordan has 180 employees whom he believes to combine the essential qualities of "loyalty to the company and the national economy at the same time." It has an ongoing programme of training and sharing of expertise with the Japanese mother company.

Mr. Munther Tabba', General Manager of Motor Trade Company — agents for Volkswagen and Audi — told The Star that sales increased by 50 per cent in 1983, which he said was due to "the best services backed up by two German specialists who are working with the company to promote the service department and the spare parts." Mr. Tabba's firm will complete the construction of a new headquarters within eight months. Located in Marka near the Volvo garage, it will contain offices, modern showrooms, a workshop and an efficient parts department.

Mr. Hani Abu Na'meh of the BMW dealership hit upon one of the key traits of Jordanian drivers when he said that although they may not be able to afford a new model BMW, they stick with the firm and buy a second-hand car "only to use BMW." This is a great pleasure that our clients do prefer BMW to other cars, he said. The company is also offering a full line of service backed up by German expertise and training courses for its staff. On new model offerings, he said the BMW 320i is now available — with electronic fuel injection, lower fuel consumption and an electronic monitoring system for fuel/oil levels and service requirements.

These dealers, just a few among the dozens in Amman, show that the car sales business is alive and well in Jordan, despite economic troubles all over.

Save lives —
Drive carefully
During the holiday season.
And remember — the installation and use of seat belts is now compulsory in Jordan.
Buckle up for safety.



EXTRAS worth about JD 400 for only JD 175 are packed into this new special edition model from Renault, the 5 Flair. Based on the three-door 1100 c.c. Renault 5TL, the Flair will be limited to 500 cars each in red, white or metallic blue. At JD 2,175 the Flair version includes alloy roadwheels, Britax tinted sun hatch, tinted windows, a rear spoiler, a centre console, and Motorola push-button radio with special roof aerial.



FORD (UK) is keeping its end up in the top-of-the-range market with two new versions of the Granada. The L, available with 2.0 or 2.3 litre petrol engine or 2.5 diesel, and as a saloon or estate, will now cost JD 3,500 - 4,250 compared with JD 3,750 - 4,430. The LX is distinguished by bumpers in body colour and special white finish on the wheel covers. It also boasts higher levels of equipment as standard and prices range from JD 3,750 for the 2.0 litre saloon to JD 4,350 for the 2.3 litre estate.

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GIFTS.....

Finding a present is no problem



A future musician tries a chord (Naser Namrouli)

Continued from page 3

at the end of this semester and start a new life with the new year," Meha said. Christmas shopping is an experience in itself for Meha and her sister. "The crowd of people, the carols and all the lovely things on display make you want to spend and spend," she laughs.

Toys galore

Naturally, it was the toy department that was actually doing land-office business, packed with children who wanted to buy every toy and game. Harassed parents flinched as their five-year-old kids stubbornly held on to the bicycles that were meant for 12-year-olds, and to water pistols that would ultimately make a lovely mess at home. The parents of a four-year-old girl were desperately trying to reason with her to explain that a smaller, nice yellow teddy bear would be more comfortable than the one she had gripped under her arm — three times her own size.

The expression on the face of one father showed what most parents must feel when they bring their children shopping. That "help-never again!" expression was clear as he tried to keep up with his five-year-old son and toddler daughter who had made a beeline towards the toys.

Hard to blame the kids, however. This year's toys have made it another record-breaker in terms of excitement — with bears and other stuffed toys in various sizes and colours;

beautiful dolls (especially Barbie with her complete set of wardrobe); remote control games; talking clocks to teach the time; blocks and dozens of different games for all ages. They even made adults wish they were young once again, or regret that these things were not around when they actually were children.

One couple, who had been wise enough not to bring their children with them, were looking at the pretty dolls. "Christmas here is quite different than back home in Germany," said Mrs. Bolt. "But somehow, it really feels as if we were back home, especially in this store because it is similar to the ones there... if only toys were not so expensive."

Debbie Nelson and her friend Sue Kelly, who were reading the verses on Christmas cards, also say that the atmosphere at the store makes them imagine they were back home in England. "We have been in Jordan for four years and this is the first time we feel as if it were really Christmas. I think this store has something to do with it," said Debbie.

"It is just like America," said Mary Kerkeshian, very surprised. "I feel that I am in one of the department stores in New York during the Christmas season. The carols in the background give me a spiritual feeling of the coming holiday which is quite a holy day. I enthusiastically wait for Christmas every year, for it marks the birth of Christ, and I always welcome the new year, hoping that it will be a year of joy and spiritual peace."

Christmas '83: Sadness and hope



George Sayegh

APART from the hustle and bustle of shopping and holidaymaking, gift-giving and parties, what are people's own personal feelings at Christmas this year? The Star's Khader Mansour asked some Jordanians and came up with answers that provide a melancholy but optimistic contrast to the tinsel and glitter around us.

DR. GEORGE Sayegh, a Jordanian general practitioner, spoke thoughtfully. "The rhythm of time passes and one finds oneself passing from one day to another, drowned in the mundane aspects of living and tightened in the routine. All of a sudden he comes across a different day, whereupon he stretches out a hand begging for happiness."

"Happiness might come, yet it is evanescent and the sweet experience eventually becomes part of the cloudy past. We are now approaching Christmas, and the hope that a change will come to embrace happiness. Yet this Christmas, he said, will be one of 'hollow melancholy, because one's own Christmas used to be spent in Jerusalem, our sacred city of peace."

"I recollect that when I was a little boy, the family got together and travelled in the dark night to Bethlehem, to attend mass with believers who thronged the Church of the Nativity listening with misty eyes and happy faces to the sweet chanting that brings to memory the great event of the birth of Jesus Christ the Man of peace."

Dr. Sayegh spoke of his "hope for the future to return to Jerusalem, to indulge afresh in the



Nuha Batshon

ART GALLERY owner Nuha Batshon, who was once an announcer with Jordan Television and the BBC, said this Christmas "cannot be joyful and bright and does not allow a happy forecast — at least for the near future — due to the bitter tragic events dominating our region and other parts of the world — offensives, bombings and bloodbaths here and there."

The usual feeling today, is to be sad, disheartened, disappointed, distressed. Negative experiences engulf us, hopes are shattered... we share today's ugly, decline... tomorrow, the future seems as gloomy... thus, one is bound to ask, is it the end? Have we lost all faith?"

No, Miss Batshon concluded. Whatever happens, she said, "faith and hope will create a promising future."

"THIS IS indeed a black Christmas, because justice with it is totally senseless and odd," said Bishop Lino Khoury, head of the Evangelic Church in Jordan. "I am downhearted, sad and shocked to the extreme. I am an optimist by nature, but the facts are horrible and bitter, for one can hardly see virtue, mercy and love on our greater nation's soil."

Bishop Khoury said Christmas is the most significant and densest feast to all Christians. "It reminds them together with all believers in Almighty God, of a great Messenger of God, Jesus Christ who preached virtue, mercy, love and tolerance; and who sacrificed his life for the guidance and prosperity of his people."

"But his people, the societies and individuals of today, are far too far, off from Christianity."

The Bishop, who is a member of the Palestine National Council, expressed his sadness "to

see such great values of Jesus Christ ignored and damaged by the effect of human failure, ignorance, misunderstanding, selfishness and greed. The plight of the Palestinians and the Lebanese lost a diagram example of the absence of genuine Christian values and teachings."

"Look every where in this universe and you see poverty, famine, mass killings, deliberate torture, organized crime, bombings, hypocrisy, the collapse of family life, narcotics, permissiveness, ugly sex and films, and at the top of all these evils, the destructive nuclear missiles, Sabao and Shatila, Nahr Al-Bared and Al-Baddawi. All this, is taking place in broad daylight and under the umbrella of so-called modern civilization — and of course, at the expense of piety and purity of purpose."

He called upon Arab leaders "to think of fairness, justice and foremost of the unity of hearts and purpose in order to



Ella Khoury

prove the noble sense of a 'Merry Christmas' as with this, and this only, we can regain our sacred homeland, Bethlehem and Jerusalem from our aggressors."

"Finally, I pray to Almighty God to guide the world, and the Arab leaders to remember God in their thoughts and acts."

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The company was founded in the 1930s, and since that time Sun Electric has been the market leader in the field of motor testers as well as testers for automobile emissions. The exhaust emissions include carbon monoxide (CO) and Hydrocarbon (HC), the first being a poisonous gas and the latter unburned fuel.

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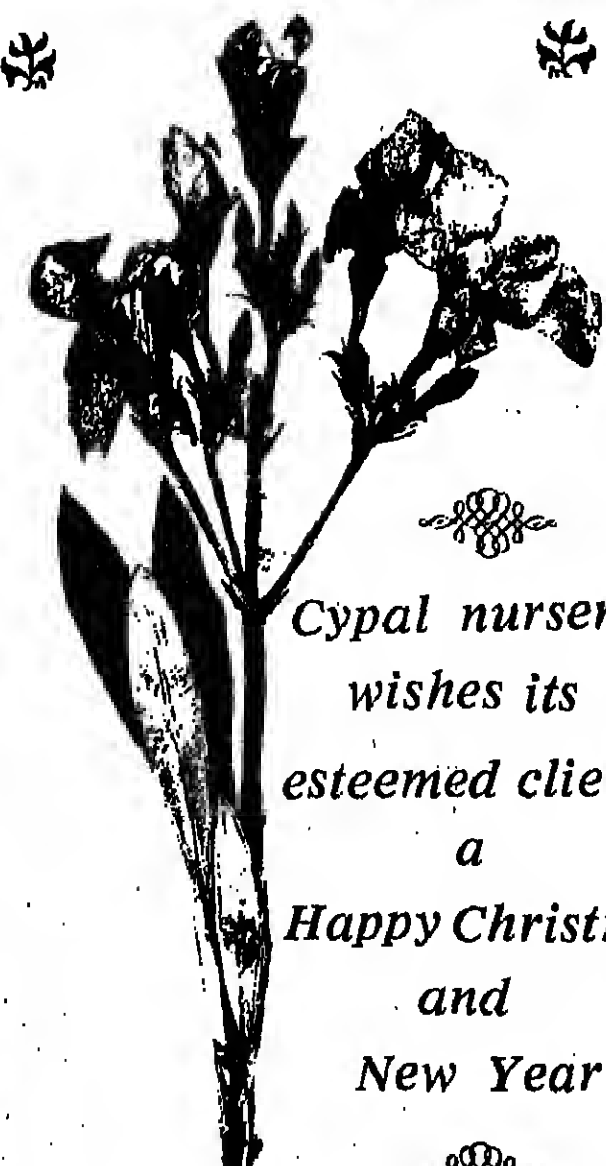


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Jordanian designer Majda Kaseer Bisharat: Social pressures influence Jordanian women's dress

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BEAUTY....

What's in for this year?

The approach of the New Year is time to prepare oneself for what the world's fashion leaders may come up with next. Hair styling as much as clothing fashion is where the style-conscious woman needs to keep up — and Jordanian females are increasingly with the times on both fronts, as Amal Ghandour reports:

At a time of economic difficulties, the hair styling business in Jordan is thriving, and is bringing in more money than ever before.

Mr. Yaseen Habul, who owns six hairdressing salons in Amman, says that hair is very important for the Jordanian woman. She takes care of it and knows what suits her.

"She likes short hair," remarks Mr. Habul. "It is more functional. It does not demand much effort or time. And it is not a hassle."

However, he says that the business as a whole in Jordan is below European standards. According to Yaseen, "Many hairstylists in Jordan do not enjoy a high professional standard. The business is still relatively young and many people are going into it without being qualified."

To correct this shortcoming, he advises those who are responsible for licensing hairdressing shops not to authorize any licence before confirming the hairstylist's qualifications. He also advises women not to entrust their hair to just anyone.

But, nonetheless, Yaseen is confident that the business is progressing. It seems that after the Lebanese civil war, many Lebanese hairdressers came to Amman, thus ensuring its success. He says that without a doubt the Lebanese have helped the

Continued on next page

BEAUTY....

business tremendously, with their artistic professionalism and taste.

Yaseen has participated in international competitions in Paris and Cannes, and won the gold medal in Paris and the silver medal in Cannes. Under the sponsorship of the Jordanian Artists' Association, Yaseen was chosen to head the Jordanian hair stylist's team which competes at international events.

Yaseen does not have any particularly new styles for Christmas, but he affirms that "anything done will be out of the ordinary, to fit the mood of the New Year."

Fashion inches ahead

JORDAN IS still far from being a centre of international fashion. But in contrast to a few years ago, Jordanian women are now having high fashion brought right to their doorsteps. Boutiques here are now offering the most fashionable, and sometimes the most expensive, collections of clothes.

Majda Kaseer Bisharat, Jordan's own, and probably its only top-class designer, talked to The Star about the changing tastes of Jordanian women, and fashion in Jordan.

Describing the taste of the Jordanian female, Majda says that "even though she is changing and is adopting new styles, she is still attached to the classical way of looking."

"If fashion chooses the short skirt or dress the ladies want them lengthened. If the tight look is in fashion they want them loosened. This is not to say that the Jordanian woman is not fashionable; she is willing to attempt new things but it just takes her a bit longer than others."

The Lebanese have always been the first to change with the fashion. "The Lebanese woman is still without equal in the Middle East," says Majda. "She is not scared to wear even the craziest styles, and the business (in Lebanon) is doing very well." Majda attributes this success to the open Lebanese society that allows its women to experiment with any style they desire. Low prices also play a part in this high level of fashion activity.

Stronger social pressures in Jordan, on the other hand, tend to influence a woman's dressing habits. Majda says that "the Jordanian female has to conform to the typical feminine look of skirt and dress, and preferably the shoes with heels. This in turn limits her taste." While the casual look is widespread among the younger generation in Lebanon, in Jordan it is less so.

The young designer argues that Jordanian women will become a more outgoing, and will have a free taste in

clothes, once the social codes are relaxed.

Such attitudes, however, have not been so much of a problem recently, since this year's fashion suited the Jordanian woman. The classical look was back in style. Dark colours, black and grey, and long elegant dressy suits, stormed the fashion centres. "In a way this is a refreshing change from the bizarre and crazy styles of the last few years," remarks Majda. But she adds that "this formal way of dressing will fade away, and new lines will be introduced soon."

Majda, who owns a boutique herself, complains that business in Jordan has not been profitable. She blames it on the depressed economic conditions, and the rising prices of clothes, which are plaguing most boutique owners. "Clothes have become more expensive and the ladies are a bit hesitant to pay," she says.

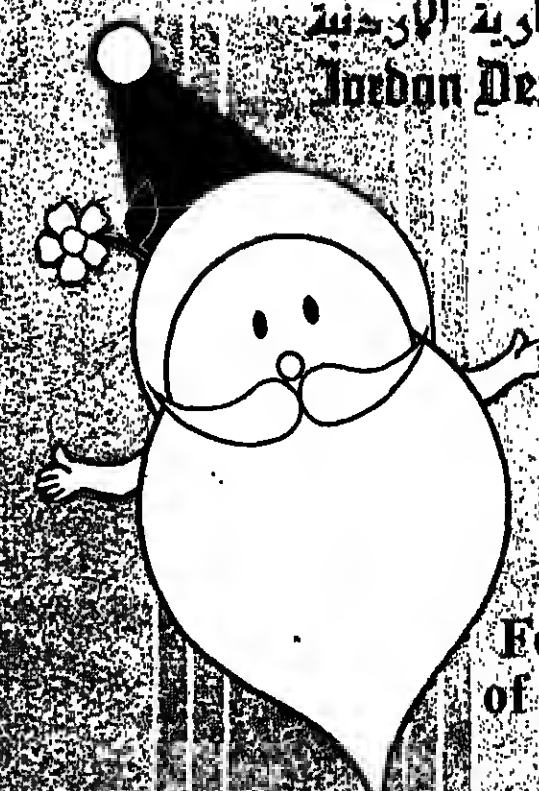
Another problem that Majda senses is the misconception among many women in Jordan that prices abroad — in Europe and the US — are much cheaper. "The truth of the matter is that in past years that used to be the case. But now the situation has changed." Still, boutique owners in Jordan face the disadvantage of very high customs duties — 61 per cent which obliges them to charge high prices. This is preventing the business from growing, or even selling at all.

Majda, who studied designing in Italy, launched her career three years ago. She has five fashion shows since, and has received encouragement from many people to continue. Her ambitions are not limited to Jordan. She hopes one day to compete on the international level. Asked if she thinks she will make it, she said that "it needs time and money, but the will and creativity are there."

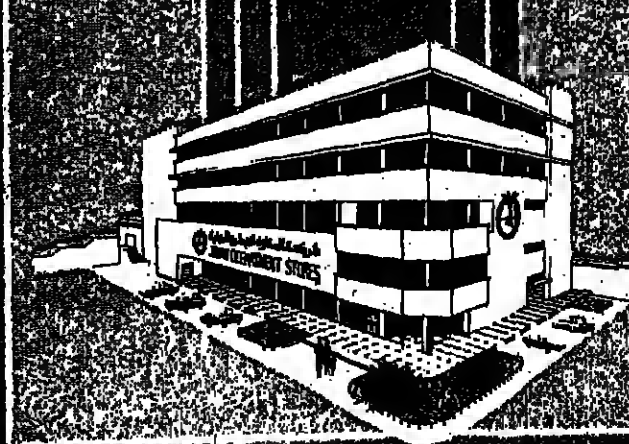
Christian Dior illustrates the return of the "classical look" with this proposal for New Year's Eve (right). A swakara chasuble and black-lusted zibeline (Key-stone photo)



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BEAUTY.... Make

By Amal Ghandour
Star Staff Writer

THE MAIN purpose of make-up and beauty treatment could probably be stated as to make the plain woman attractive, and the pretty woman prettier. But they can also ruin her skin, and destroy its natural look, if the wrong make-up or treatment line is used.

Cosmetics and treatment lines are popular among Jordanian women who can afford them. Salina Badour, a local beautician, says, "The Jordanian woman is willing to pay for the most expensive products." But this year, Salina adds, "was a very slow year, and the business did not move as expected, because of the economic slump."

Asked about Jordanian women's awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of cosmetics, Salina says that "they are generally aware, but still need to know much more." She divides women buyers into three categories: Those who have the money and take the time to learn about the nature of the product; those who do not have much money, but are still interested to know about the different cosmetic systems and how they to use them; and those who spend incredible amounts of money on expensive products, not bothering to ask whether they suit their type of skin or not.

Top-quality cosmetic manufacturers such as Dior and Estee Lauder do not actually advertise their creams (cleansing tonics and moisturisers). The top-selling items are the standard mass cream products.

Facial treatments are also very popular in Jordan. Again, Salina remarks that most facialists are just as irresponsible as those who are getting the facials. "Three-quarters of the places," she says, "do not really take care of the skin of their customers. They poke at them, experiment with them, and finally ruin them. They dump all sorts of creams and masks on the face, without any consideration for the oily, mixed or dry nature of the skin."

Jordanian

Continued from page 4

But this didn't mean that the spirit of Christmas did not prevail. In Salt, it began 40 days before Christmas Day as people began their fasting period — in preparation for communion at the Christmas Eve midnight mass.

With the break of dawn on the holy day, adults gathered at the cemetery to visit the resting-places of dear ones who are specially remembered on such a day. The parish priest could always be found there to share with the families some prayers for the deceased.

Families in mourning received condolences from visitors for three days. On these occasions they served only Turkish coffee.

At home, holiday greetings were exchanged and the younger members of the families kissed the hands of their elders. Parents and children gathered at the homes of paternal grandparents. It was there that a sheep was slaughtered by the eldest male member of the family. The women would then begin their very busy day to cook the day's dinner — "mansaf", a feast of chunks of lamb cooked for several hours in the milky sauce extracted from "jameed", and then laid on top of a huge tray of rice. Also prepared was "knafeh", the very sweet pastry made from sweetened white cheese, orange-dyed wheat and syrup baked on a large tray.

A couple of male members of the family would stay home to receive visitors as the rest of the men would leave to visit. Men and women were received in separate rooms.

The money children received would be spent on fire-crackers, balloons, whistles, candy and marbles. Women also received either money or foodstuffs such as meat, vegetables or fruit. The poor were not forgotten, and the needy families received gifts of food and money.

Spiced black Turkish coffee was served to guests in small wide-mouthed cups (One had

it up!

Salina suggests that "people be made aware of the product and treatment line and what they can do for them. They have to understand that if the wrong creams are used the skin will be ruined."

On current trends, she says, "The bright colours are back, and naturally for the younger generation." The young woman is actually the target for the cosmetics companies, because the younger she is, the more make-up she is likely to use. But the treatment lines sell more among the older generation.

Salina concludes, though, that "No make-up or cream will do for you what natural health will. If you eat the right kind of food, and exercise regularly, and you feel good inside, then you will look good on the outside."

customs

to remember slightly to shake the cup once one had finished drinking, unless one wanted a second helping). The sweets offered with coffee were "ghraibeh" (made out of semolina), candy-coated almonds and "raha" (Turkish delight).

Christmas was not only a day's celebration. It went on for three days — according to the saying that "any holiday should last for three days and a third of a day."

Much of the simplicity of those celebrations as well as the traditions nowadays have either weakened or disappeared.

For one thing, as nuclear families have begun to lose contact with their "extended families", Christmas visiting has in many cases been cut down to exchanges between close relatives and friends.

As families have their Christmas dinner alone, sheep are seldom slaughtered. Dinners consist of any meal the family members want.

Gone are the break-of-dawn masses, for now they are held in the evenings; and cemeteries are visited during mid-mornings.

Social distinctions in customs now are more obvious, as those who can afford to celebrate Christmas and New Year at restaurants and hotel parties.

Now that women have entered the world of jobs and salaries, and especially seeing that not all men can afford to present substantial gifts of money to numbers of relatives without going into debt, the custom — although still common — has generally been downgraded to presents of small gifts such as a box of sweets.

Gone are the simple fir trees, for they are replaced by huge fancy man-made ones. Children, no matter how young they are, do not believe in Santa Claus. Somehow, they are either harder to fool, or make-believe is just not played as well as it used to be.

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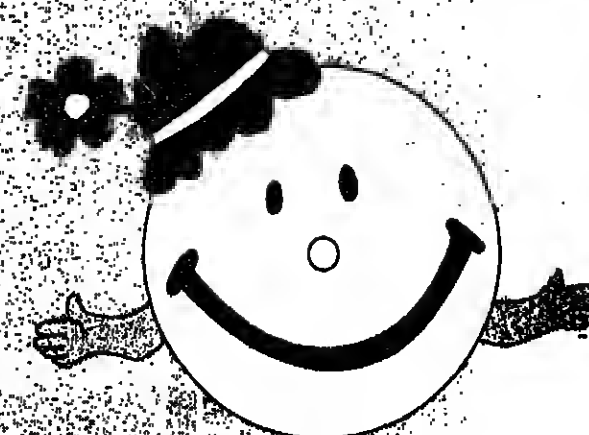
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AHLAN WA SAHLAN

THE CUSTOM of considering every woman to be a 'walla' — dependent and in need of the protection of the 'stronger' sex — was reinforced during the Ottoman period, at a time when a woman's place was very firmly understood to be solely at home, to take care of her children and serve her husband. It was a time when women's rights were overlooked and the only ones a woman could turn to were her father, brothers, uncles and nephews. The Ottoman rule is gone, but the 'walla' custom remains. It is most obviously during holidays like Christmas, when women receive gifts of money from their close relatives.

This custom is a way of making a woman feel that she is appreciated and respected — but many feel that it is no longer suitable in the modern world.

Women are regaining their rights and it is now acceptable for them to hold jobs. They can provide themselves with their own money, as well as gaining respect through their work. In addition to that, with the high cost of living, many men can no longer afford to give the accustomed generous amounts of money to their several relatives without depriving their own families of certain things. Yet it is often hard to get a man to admit this fact, and women are now trying to do something about it. They may have a long way to go before they can change anything.

"We are three sisters and a brother," said a woman who holds a secretarial job. "We all know that he cannot afford such a thing. But when we tried to convince him that there really is no need for it, and that just a box of candy for the children will be appreciated, he strongly refused."

"He thinks that it is shameful and degrading not to follow traditions. He thinks that he and all of his sisters would be looked down upon by our husbands if he doesn't do his 'duty' — which is not true. Actually, they feel sorry about the whole situation."

"I once tried to help him out by presenting gifts of clothes to my little nephews and nieces throughout the year," she continued, "but it made things worse. He began to rebuke the usual amount of money, since he believed that I should be repaid one way or another."

"I really hate it when my brothers bring me money for the holidays," said an exasperated housewife. "I only want them to come and visit me — is that too much to ask for? I feel that they come only out of a sense of duty, and it is only during the holidays that I get to see them at my home. They think that because of tradition, you cannot go to your sister's home without bringing something with you."

"And I feel extremely guilty to take money, which I really don't need, from those who really do — but I have to, even though I struggle with them to refuse, or else they would be offended."

A elementary school teacher gave a possible solution. "My sisters and I came to an agreement with our brothers," she said. "We sat down together one day a couple of years ago and decided to exchange only boxes of candy during the holidays — no money, no fancy things and no artificial show-off. We are quite happy with the arrangement, for it is quite embarrassing to receive money as a gift when you hold a job of your own and have built your own independent reputation."

Of course, not all families feel the same way. In fact, as a college student said, "It may be unsuitable for those who can't afford such a thing. But there are cases where some men can well afford to give small amounts to their nearest relatives who are in need of financial help, especially when these relatives are some reason or another, cannot work. They refrain from giving the money, claiming that the tradition is now old-fashioned," she said.

Along with the accustomed joy and family love, it seems that Christmas can also bring its own special problems.



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Merry
Christmas
And a
Happy
New Year



Above left: Muriel Belmondo in 'En Attendant' Centre: 'Eo Parant de' Above right and middle: 'Derive'

French group completes a trio plus one

By Star Staff Writer

THE ARRIVAL of the French dance group Le Theatre du Silence for performances at the Royal Cultural Centre marks the end of a special, and so far, very successful dance programme at the centre.

The idea of the programme was to introduce ballet and its subsequent forms to Jordanian audiences in a systematic form.

It began with the strictly classical Leningrad State Ballet; then came the Scottish Ballet, which based itself on classical technique but also tackled more modern works such as the "Three Dances to Japanese Music" and "Belong" which were such a success in their Amman programme.

The third member of the trio, "Le Theatre du Silence" is a strictly contemporary company whose dancers have been praised for their "incredible mastery of the body" while director Brigitte Lefevre has been described as "the impeccable translator of body language."

Le Theatre du Silence was established in 1972 by Brigitte Lefevre and Jacques Garnier who were at the time dancing with the Paris Opera.

They had worked with some of the best of the modern choreographers including George Balanchine and Roland Petit, but Ms. Lefevre says it was the arrival of Belgian choreographer Maurice Bejart that was the spur to their founding of their own company.

She says that although the Opera worked with these outside choreographers, it was still relatively inclined to work in its own style and to direct its work at established ballet lovers.

Bejart, she says, has an ability to burst upon the public. The leaders of the Opera began to go and meet a wider public in the Paris suburbs and in the French provinces.

It was in this context that Lefevre and Garnier began to develop as choreographers. In January 1972 they gathered a group of about 10 dancers who shared their ideas about the dance and formed Le Theatre du Silence.

In 1974 the group was invited to make its home in the town of La Rochelle on France's Atlantic coast. Working in conjunction with the House of Culture they have set out to develop an awareness of the dance by public rehearsals, meetings, public events, visits to the schools and to local government and to neighbourhood theatres.

Now they are beginning to get a real response as the public participate in their training sessions and workshops.

Taste for freedom

Ms. Lefevre says that although it was Bejart who inspired the formation of the company, their encounter with American choreographer Merce Cunningham was of "primordial importance." "This meeting,"

she says, "changed our view of things and our perception of the dance. It gave us a taste for freedom and the desire to go our own way."

The company now practices the "Cunningham technique" in its daily training and invites teachers from the Cunningham school to give classes.

In her own choreography Ms. Lefevre concentrates on the expression of feelings rather than on specific concepts. She does not have the ambition to prove anything but rather her dancing belongs to the domain of feeling. What she admires in Cunningham's work is his awareness of the possibilities of the body which enables feelings to be

translated into movement with a high degree of clarity.

And if all that sounds a little serious, London critic Ann Nugent assures us "Their work is not heavy and obscure but light and entertaining."

"Plus one"? The arrival of the La Scala ballet company could have disrupted the Cultural Centre's programme but, in fact, it turned out to complement it. Though it has a much less clearly worked out artistic policy than its Scottish counterpart, the Scala also combines classical and contemporary works in its repertoire and the contemporary work it chose for Amman was by Maurice Bejart. So those who have been attending the whole

programme have the chance to see how Bejart has influenced two such different companies as the Scala and Le Theatre du Silence.

Le Theatre du Silence will give three performances at the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 December (Programme 1) and on Thursday 8 December (Programme 2). All performances will be at 8.00 pm.

Programme one consists of "Derive", "Auto-stop", "En Attendant" and "En Parant de".

Programme two consists of "Interruptions", "Traveller" and "Carmina Burana".

Pianist shows rich technique

WOLFRAM LORENZEN, master pianist from Germany this week gave audiences in Amman a sample of some of the more dramatic and exhibitionist works of the piano repertoire. Works that require not only sound technique and mastery of control but on a more powerful style.

Wolfram, born in Freiberg of a musical family, both his parents being professional organists, acquired the bulk of his excellent technique under Professor Klaus Linder in Basel. After attending International master classes with such notables as Wilhelm Kempff and winning several competitions he has been recognised as one of Germany's rising piano stars and plays regularly with major orchestras such as the Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Bamberg Symphony. He has toured extensively throughout Europe performing at main centres such as the Wigmore Hall in London. In 1982 he toured Australia and Asia and in the

New Year he will travel to the Far East.

A mental and emotional pianist, his concentration, speed and precision give rise to virtuoso displays of musical dexterity that serve well the pieces chosen for the programme here in Amman.

Particularly noteworthy was Schubert's triumphant and tortured Fantasy Of A Wanderer where his restrained temperament found release in the dark and powerful passages without spilling into the melodramatic. His attacking force being well reined by accuracy and control. The quieter adagio was filled out with an expressive broad hand and building from a rumbling bass into generous crescendos, he surged smoothly in and out of the sad tuneless pictorial passages into thunderous rises and falls.

Although his rendering of Mozart's Variations in D major on a minuet by Duport was articulate and precise his style fails to bring out the ty-

ricism in Mozart's music and the interpretation was rather dry. Wolfram's talent grows when playing the more heady and expressive Chopin nocturnes, shines when executing the brilliant twisting passages of Liszt's Mephiston Waltz but truly comes into its own when riding the heights and depths of dramatic warlike music such as the Wanderer.

The programme was a deliberate compilation of contrasting pieces moving to a climatic end.

Although some members of the audience may have found the emphasis on the dramatic a little irritating most found the performance thrilling and energising. A programme of romantic and classical pieces is often required on tour but Wolfram has also made excursions into works of modern classics by Bartok, Hindemith, Stockhausen and Stravinsky and when not performing, he likes to listen to American jazz.



"Suddenly Fiona screamed at him like a scalded cat."

Living in the past

Visitors to the tiny village of Morwellham, on England's Devon coast, may well think they have stepped back a century in time. For life goes on there as it did in the mid 19th century.

In the early 19th century Morwellham was a major industrial site with extensive mining of tin, copper and manganese went on in the area. The mining turned Morwellham into a major port.

The town began to decline in the 1860's and by 1900 was virtually closed.

Now Morwellham has been restored as a "living history"



The village shop at Morwellham

project. Shops and cottages have been cleaned and repaired and the town now has a cooper (a barrel maker) a blacksmith and an assayer (a chemist) who work exactly as their 19th century counterparts did.

Morwellham is now a tourist attraction but it is also a focus of great interest for people in the nearby towns. It is an entertainment and an enlightening demonstration of social and industrial history. (LPS)

The Salims, our neighbours

By Ahmad Al Anani
Special to The Star

TO US the Salims were mere acquaintances. Yet we were all fascinated by the traditions they kept which made them so near to the hearts of their neighbours.

Abdullah Salim was the head of the family. I once noticed him talking to my uncle Khalid and truly, I admired his way of speech. I thought he used just as many words as were necessary to make himself understood and he spoke to the point. He was dressed in a white summer "thobe" and although he bore no signs of wealth yet I knew he was quite satisfied with his lot.

There had been no chance for me to know Faddah Salim, the wife of Abdullah, but my uncle's wife Aziza always paid high tribute to her noble character, describing her as honest, reserved, considerate and blessed with a sense of humour.

Yet, Aziza would sometimes suggest that Faddah Salim was a woman yearning for a better life.

Aziza would talk to my mother and, sitting nearby in our small house, I couldn't help overhearing what the ladies said. My uncle's wife expressed some grief because the Salims had started to lose their peace at home. The reason was simply "the Gulf".

This Gulf comprising Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates and Oman was becoming a mixed blessing for other Arab countries. There is no doubt that some citizens of Western Arabia, Syrians, Lebanese, Palestinian and Egyptians, did earn fabulous wealth. These individuals however are few and the majority were in private business. Some of them worked on their own and others in partnership with Gulf residents.

With their incomes rising so greatly those western Arabs began to spend luxuriously on all sorts of consumer goods.

Up to the eighties it was possible for their countrymen living with them as expatriates to imitate them in almost all luxurious appearances. Junior government officials felt this pinch a little but the moderate level of prices up to about 1978 made that imitation possible.

Later, salaries started to dwindle in comparison to prices but not before the Arab workers had had the chance to pay annual visits to their relatives overloaded with luxury commodities.

At first Faddah Salim resisted the lure of these consumer goods that had made the life of many visiting expatriates so colourful. Then curiosity led her to peep into the life of these privileged summer visitors. She could not resist the temptation of all the electrical implements brought by a neighbouring relative.

Ah, if Faddah only had a son of an age to seize one of the opportunities in Dubai. But then, why not get her daughters married to two of those lucky chaps who come back from the Gulf in those luxurious cars?

My uncle's wife Aziza, on reaching this point in her story sighed deeply then continued. "She overpowered her two daughters by most persuasive words on the ugliness of poverty and the two wretched girls, aged only 16 and 17 years were married hastily to two brothers whose appearance might make you believe they held key positions in the Gulf."

Faddah and Salim thus gained access to some of the luxuries of the Gulf, but the price proved to be terribly high.

After a time the garage man lost his job. By now each man had a son and their need for money increased. At last, against their wills, the two men found themselves involved in a vice ring.

One black morning the Salims received a cable from their daughters whose husbands had been sentenced to three years imprisonment. The Salims left the quarter and nobody knows anything about them. The new consumerism had destroyed yet another family.

Pioneering secretary receives recognition

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

Catherine Khouri knew that her 35 years of dedicated work at the British Council was appreciated, but she was still surprised and thrilled when she received an MBE (Member of the British Empire) award recently.

Back in 1948 Catherine became the first woman in Jordan to hold an office job when she took a temporary secretarial job with the British Council. Catherine lived in Jerusalem but was visiting her sister in Amman when the war began. She found herself unable to return to Jerusalem and, as she says "My temporary two-week job lasted for 35 years."

Fortunately for Catherine, her early life had prepared her well for her pioneering job in Jordan.

She was born in Petrograd, now Leningrad, where her father was carrying on his studies in theology. Her family moved back to Jerusalem when she was a baby but by the time she was old enough to attend school, the only language she knew was Russian because that was the language spoken at home. However she easily picked up her Arabic when she attended the St. Joseph School and then the Jerusalem Girls College.

Her father, who was then a school principal, was not satisfied with the idea of having his five children mastering only two languages. He made sure that they learned English and French at school and the children were also encouraged to pick up Greek, the language their mother spoke since she was half Greek.

Emergence

When she was not indulging in reading from the wide selection of books in her father's library, Catherine spent her free time energetically taking part in tournaments and playing squash and tennis. She took lessons in classical dancing and the piano and has had a life-long interest in ballet, opera and classical music. She also rode horses, and was one of the first to open the door for other Arab girls to participate in such an activity.

Catherine's career at the British Council had rather unimpressive beginnings. She started her secretarial job in a small attic where cases served her as a desk for her typewriter. She did not look exercises for she had to jog up and down the stairs to use the telephone which was located in the ground floor.

Catherine says that, at the start, her job was not easy because she had to deal with people



Catherine Khouri receives the MBE from British Ambassador Alan Urwick.

who, on their part, were not used to dealing with a woman holding an administrative job. "This ill-ease was soon dissolved as people came eagerly to learn and students came by the dozens to sit for their GCE exams," she says.

In these early days Catherine was actually much more than a secretary. Her responsibilities grew simultaneously with the expanding activities of the British Council until finally she was librarian, accountant and scholarships and educational inquiries officer all at once and all under the title of personal assistant.

Up to 1981, she held the position of personal assistant for 11 British Council representatives. When the Direct Teaching of English (DTE) Section was opened at the council, Catherine accepted to be its administrative officer, the position which she still holds today.

She has been through difficult situations as well as pleasant moments in her time with the British Council.

Her most frightening experience was in 1958 when a bomb exploded in the library. It was at the end of the afternoon shift, while she was on duty at the library desk. A university student refused her offer to return the book to the shelf herself and, as he returned the book he took out a pencil gilette and planted it in the library.

Several minutes after he had left, Catherine was surprised by a sudden noise. She threw herself under the desk but her arm and leg were injured by flying glass.

Once she was sure that no-one else was injured, she headed straight to a pharmacy to have the fragments of glass cleaned out of her wounds, a job which took a full week.

As for the pleasant moments, Catherine met several important personalities who visited the council, among whom were the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

Another surprise came her way in 1977, when a team from Jordan Television came to her office to ask her questions for a special programme on secretaries. Her camera-fright increased as she felt uncomfortable about not being fully prepared for such an interview, but, being used to working under stress, she managed to cope. She was happy to encourage secretaries in their work because even in 1977 women were still not very common in administrative jobs. One of the several changes Catherine has noticed during her time in Jordan is that women are no longer looked down upon for working in occupations other than teaching, such as office jobs.

"Nowadays, women are standing up for themselves and even pregnant women go on working for as long as they can," she comments. Catherine also believes that people are more interested in music and reading now than they were in the fifties. "Whether they are influenced by the West, I really can't say," she says. "But people are more educated and are opened up to the world by going abroad."

Catherine is planning to retire at the end of this month and she intends to fill up her time by playing her piano, reading, attending concerts and touring abroad. But she knows that these activities will not be enough and she hopes to find a part-time job teaching English, French or even Russian.

"I feel sorry to leave the British Council because it is now part of my life and I'm attached to it," she says. "Starting a new and detached life will be quite difficult."



Belted up yet?

Have you belted up yet? Or to put it another way — are you using the safety seatbelts in your car whenever you go out for a drive, even a short one?

Now that this traffic regulation requiring that we all use the safety belts in our cars or have them installed if they weren't standard equipment with the vehicle when you bought it, has come into effect most people are belting up.

Except for a few, First there is the person who thinks having the strap across his chest and lap is making him uncomfortable, so he pulls it out and doesn't listen to the other side of the belt. It looks like he is safely buckled down but he isn't.

Or the lady who has a new dress and doesn't want to make wrinkles in it before she arrives at where she is headed. She would be better off if she had shopped around a little more and found a garment made of crease-resistant material. Then she could fasten her safety belt without worrying over her appearance.

Then there are always the perverse few individuals in every group who will always do the opposite of what they have been told, even if it is just to see how long they can get away with it before they are caught.

Safety seatbelts are there for our own protection. If you are in an accident they stop you from being thrown out of the car, either through the door that has flown open or the worst way — through the front glass.

Groups concerned with travellers' protection have done numerous tests which all prove that wearing seatbelts minimises the injury rate of those involved in crashes. Surely we all have seen those films of the dummies being thrown about every whichway in simulated incidents that are filmed from every possible angle, from every possible speed, then measured and all factors analysed and presented to the viewers.

Yet these films, no matter how thorough they were seemed to have little or no effect on most people's behaviour. I wish some of these people would have been with me at a plastic surgeons' conference.

A great deal of their work comes from patients whose faces have gone through the car windshield in road traffic accidents. The doctors had "before" and "after" slides of their most outstanding cases. They must be congratulated on their work because it is nothing short of miraculous that they can take a face that resembles a plateful of minced meat and reconstruct it back to something normal — I think they used the phrase "socially acceptable".

This is not to mention the fact that if you are thrown out of your car in an accident that next thing that is most likely to happen to you is that you will be run over by another auto that didn't have time to stop or slow down when he saw the crash.

A survey of 500 cars taken in a busy section of Amman prior to this new regulation showed that in only six of these vehicles were the driver or his passenger using the recommended shoulder safety strap. That is little more than one percent.

Now that the police are putting a JD 15 fine on anyone caught not wearing a seatbelt, most of us are belting up. Does this imply that until now the majority of us valued our own safety and lives at less than that amount?

Urgently Required

Live-in housemaid to take care of children and helping in house work — English and/or Arabic speaking or both — please contact Tel. 42307

Jordan Welfare Lottery

A special issue on the New Year's Day. First prize JD 30000 — Total prizes JD 68,160. One winning ticket from every seven tickets. Feel lucky on New Year's Day 1984. Proceeds will go to charities. Drawing will take place on Jordan Television on 1/1/84.

In Jordan, "Ahlan Wa Sahlan" is more than a greeting. It's a way of life!



What "Ahlan Wa Sahlan" means depends on where you are. Too often, it means little more than "good day."

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Chocolate angel pie

Ingredients

- 1 egg whites
- one eighth (teaspoon) cream of tartar
- 150 grammes castor sugar
- 100 grammes dark chocolate
- 2 tablespoons black coffee
- 150 grammes chopped walnuts
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1/4 litre double cream

Method

- Whisk the egg whites until they are stiff
- Gradually add the cream of tartar and the sugar beating until stiff
- Fold in the walnuts
- Turn the meringue into a buttered pie-plate and make a neat shape, building up the sides
- Bake in a slow oven, 300F for an hour, cool
- Combine the chocolate and coffee in a pan and melt over a low heat
- Cool the mixture
- Whip the cream and fold into the melted chocolate
- Pile into the meringue shell and chill for two hours

Chef's Corner

Perfect bliss

I NEVER thought it could make such a difference. All of a sudden my creative juices are stimulated, new ideas jump up in my mind and the words just put themselves down on the paper (so don't blame me for any of this). I have a whole new outlook on life, work and the pursuit of happiness.

Not only does the world look different, I feel much more comfortable than I have done in a long time. The chills of winter which had started seeping into my scantily-protected bones have begun to recede, and I begin to feel some relief from the nagging pains that have been bothering my poor back. I can see, hear and think more clearly. What a tremendous break it is!

As I look around the office, my fellow employees seem to struggle on another plane, their backs bent under heavy burdens of labour far below the empyrean realm I occupy. My heart nches in sympathy for them as my fingers glide across the keys of my typewriter, effortlessly pouring my thoughts onto the paper in the warm glow of the sun. My work gets itself done with an ease I never thought possible.

What a great pity that such perfect bliss can be only temporary. How sad that happiness like this can never stay, but comes and goes like the sunlight now hidden behind the scudding clouds. This is the tragedy of our existence — condemned to remain strangers to the ambrosia of the gods, yet given tantalising glimpses that only leave us with the miserable knowledge of what we are missing in our humdrum lives. Soon I will be condemned to return to my drab, workaday sphere, left with only the memory of what life can be.

But for now, let me glory in the feeling of what might have been. If only... if only... life is so full of "ifs", and our dreams, hopes and aspirations fall forever so far short of realisation that it's pointless even to dream. Such elysian pleasures were just not meant for ordinary human beings like me.

Already the darkness is beginning to creep up on me. My fingers are growing cold; the sun has enconced itself permanently behind a blanket of clouds. The ideas will not come any longer, and I must go back to my cold corner.

But still I will be left with a memory of joy and wonder, a warm corner that will stay in my heart and keep me alive. I will return to my labours secure in the knowledge that somewhere up there is the place that I once occupied, and to which I may one day return. I will be kept content for the rest of my life by the knowledge of what it's like, sitting in The Boss's Chair.

CALENDAR

Ballet

The French Cultural Centre presents the contemporary dance company "Le Theatre du Silence".
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 December at 8.00 pm (Programme 1)
Thursday 29 December at 8.00 pm (Programme 2)
At the Royal Cultural Centre

Concert

The Jordanian rock group "Suede" will be in concert at the Palace of Culture, Sports City on Thursday 29 December at 8.00 p.m.

All proceeds from the concert will go to charity.

Lecture

The American Centre presents a slide lecture "New Discoveries at Ain Ghazal" by Dr Gary Rollefson of Yarmouk University.

Dr. Rollefson will discuss the discoveries made at Ain Ghazal during the past season, including the find of some of the oldest statues in the world.
Wednesday 28 December at 7.00 pm.

Exhibition

The Alia Art Gallery presents an exhibition of recent paintings by Yusef Husseiny.
Continues until Monday 26 December.

"The Orientalists", an exhibition of 19th and early 20th century paintings, continues at the Alia Art Gallery until the end of December.

Video

The American Centre presents the video series "Allstar Cooke's America".
Mondays at 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm.



Children at the Pakistan Embassy celebration of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday.

Embassy celebrates feast

Pakistani Ambassador Ehsan Rashid and Mrs Rashid marked the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday on Saturday with a special celebration at the embassy.

The celebration began with a reading from the Qur'an. This was followed by the singing of hymns, first by a group of small girls and then by three Sheikhs representing the Ministry of Awqaf. Speeches were given by Professor of Medicine at the University of Jordan, Dr. Alvi and Professor Rashid.

When the formal activities were finished, the guests were invited, to Arabic and Urdu, to enjoy tea and snacks in the Embassy garden.

Many members of the Pakistani Women's Association including general secretary Mrs Farooz Siddiqui, treasurer Mrs Farat Hattiz, vice-president Mrs Talat Bhatti, and joint secretary Mrs Shehbaz Mohas were there.

Mrs Rashid, who is president of the association, and Mrs Siddiqui told The Star that they are hoping to arrange a much bigger celebration for next year. They hope to invite Muslims of different nationalities to show how they celebrate the Prophet's birthday in their own country.

The primary school of the Islamic College had its celebrations too. The children sang religious songs and then presented a delightful play about the life of the Prophet and his victory over the Byzantine Empire.

School headmistress Mrs De'd Rifat Taha then gave a speech in which she urged parents to provide proper Islamic guidance for their children.

The Marriott Hotel is carrying on its tradition of high quality entertainment with the addition of their entertainment programme of "Roter" — a six piece band from Poland that rocks through the evening with a selection of well known hits, old and new, and a middle of the road medley of Santana music, Donna Summer, Police, David Bowie and Fire.

The Marriott which looks for good-looking classy bands to perform in its Al Rehab Night Club are well-pleased with this polished and entertaining group who place as much importance on the visual as they do the aural. The two lead singers, Eva and Anna make two costume changes each evening and eight throughout the month and move around on stage with as much agility as their voices carry over the mike.

"Let the good vibes get stronger" they sing and indeed they do as the atmosphere they generate is infectious and energising.

A pleasant, well balanced sound, never paced frantically and always handled confidently, gives old and rather tired tunes such as feelings a new flavour and interest. The feet tapping, irresistible rhythms sends dancers to the floor as the parents of four year old Reem Ahmed Al Gorani discovered as their little daughter expertly twirled and twirled like an accomplished disco dancer to almost every song to the early hours of the morning.

The members of Roter, a newly formed band six months of age are not newcomers to Jordan

on the quieter side they can slip into the Al Walima restaurant where Elizabeth Radziejowska plays an unusual mixture of classical pieces, Strauss waltzes and Broadway hits.

Elizabeth trained for five years at the Warsaw Conservatoire but she not only worked hard at becoming a fine pianist but also found time to train as a sound engineer. A keen traveller, she has been fortunate to mix work with pleasure having toured Europe as a solo classical pianist, she is visiting Jordan and the Middle East for the first time in this restaurant venue.

Eighteen "International ambassadors" of the Friendship



Polish band "Roter"

or the Middle East. Eva worked for three years with Gremine, after being discovered by their manager singing Happy Birthday in a coffee bar. She has also L.P.s in Poland and worked in Amman, Damascus and Beirut. Guitariist Leeb was recently at the Marriott with Portrett.

Eva and husband bandleader Andrei who plays bass guitar decided to form their own orchestra on their return to Poland after Eva's last tour. Teaming up with another married couple Anna the lead singer and Adam who plays drums, and a former electrician Zbigniew who not only plays keyboards but sings competently, they established Roter and took their first venue at the Yacht Club in Baghdad before coming to Jordan.

Although Leeb writes his own songs, the group perform what people like to hear concentrating on dance numbers rather than ballads and although they've not yet developed their own music they have a distinct mellow sound. Those who like their mi-

Force, a people to people exchange based in Atlanta, Georgia, were in Jordan for a brief visit recently. The group has members in parts of the US who host visitors from other countries and also go overseas on visits.

State Senator Hal Zimmerman and his wife Judy led the Jordanian segment of the tour which also included a homestay in Egypt.

Hal Zimmerman could pay only a very brief visit here as he had to return to the US for the new legislative session. But on Friday evening Judy Zimmerman hosted a dinner for Jordanian families she has met on previous visits here.

Guests included Betty and Reba Hashem, Fathi Gharaibeh and family and Mr A.S. Shehadeh with his wife, soe Muhammad and daughter Jamila.

They were joined after dinner by Nabih Jouzi and family, and by Bill Buros and Anna O'Leary of the US Embassy and Ann's husband Tom Baughman.

Suede in concert at Sports City

Suede-Jordan's own rock group will be performing on the night of 29 December at the Palace of Culture, spicing up the Christmas holiday for its eager teenage audience.

The band usually consists of three young men: Nasser Sharaf (17) on lead guitar, Faris Sherif (17) on bass, and Nart Badren, who will be replaced by Ali Eed only for this coming concert, on the drums.

The group started five years ago at the suggestion of Nart, and since then it has held more than 50 concerts. Nasser, who is thinking of pursuing a music career on a professional level, says that "Jordan needs a more active music scene, something which is lacking at the moment despite the eagerness of so many people." He adds that even though they do not have a very big following yet, "people are slowly beginning to identify with rock."

Suede writes its own music, but is influenced by such world-

famous groups like The Who, Pink Floyd and Led Zepplin.

Although the group is into the rock scene, Nasser believes that "any government encouragement of music should be directed first towards the Arabic sound which is indigenous to our culture." He adds, though, that to him "music is international without any narrow national identity."

The group has raised an impressive amount of money from its concert performances, and its policy has always been to donate it to different charities. Nasser explains that "there are many charity organizations which need financial help, and we are more than happy to contribute in our own way." The proceeds from next Thursday's concert will go to the Organization of Social Solidarity.

But if archaeology is more your scene you can go along to the Americo Centre on Wednesday,

28 December and hear Dr. Gary Rollefson of Yarmouk University talking about the latest discoveries at Ain Ghazal.

The discovery of a number of primitive plaster figures at Ain Ghazal during the summer has caused quite a stir and not only in the world of archaeology.

In an article by Eric Pace on 29 November, the New York Times devoted a lot of space to a discussion of the significance of the find.

Ralph S. Salecki, a professor of anthropology at Columbia University described them as "probably the largest and best-

preserved collection of almost life-sized statues found in the Middle East or anywhere from that period or earlier."

Professor Andrew M.T. Moore of Yale said "They are remarkable examples of symbolic representation from an early farming community. They expand considerably the information we have about the art of these people."

And on Wednesday you can hear more about the statues from the man who led the team that found them.

Swiss Ambassador to Jordan Andre Louis Vallon and Mrs

Vallon gave a dinner party this week to mark the intensification of the relations between Swiss humanitarian aid and the Al-Husseini Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped.

Guests of Honour were His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd and Her Highness Princess Majda. Three ministers and other high ranking officials as well as the ambassadors of five countries attended the dinner.

English bride-to-be Bellinda Downes had a very surprising surprise party last Saturday when Cynthia Stopferth got together with some American friends to give her a "Bridal Shower," something she and her mother, Mrs Susan Downes, had never heard of before.



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By

YUSSEF HUSSEINY

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Star kids

Joke

Spot



1 - Father: Well, my son, did you help wash the dishes?
Kid: Yes Dad.
Father: And dried them?
Kid: Yes Dad, and I swept up the broken bits.

2 - Mother: Now Sally, don't you know you are not supposed to eat with your knife?
Sally: Yes Mother, but my fork leaks.

3 - Hickory, dickory and dock three mice ran up the clock. The clock struck nine... And the other two got away with minor injuries.

4 - Why did the policeman cry?
- Because he couldn't take his panda to bed.

Jennifer Zureikat sent these jokes to Star Kids this week. Jennifer is 11 years old and joins the CMS. Thank you very much Jennifer for your nice contribution.



"Donald Duck" is angry for some reason. Nobody knows the reason except Manal Seifeddin Sharabati who sent this sketch to "Star Kids". Thank you Manal.

ODDITIES



An Eskimo family in their igloo

What is an igloo?

AN IGLOO is a hut constructed by the Eskimo Indians for their winter quarters. There is no wind obtainable in vast stretches of their country (which lies in the extreme north of America; they also inhabit the shores of Greenland), and they make use of snow — the only building material available.

The Eskimo digs a trench in a freshly-fallen snow-drift and then proceeds to cut out blocks with his bone knife. These blocks are slightly curved, and he arranges them so as to form a beehive-shaped hut, filling up the crevices and cracks with loose snow. So expert are the Eskimos that a small house can be built in a couple of hours. Then the door opening is plugged with skins and a blubber-oil lamp is lit so that the inside surface of the hut melts slightly.

At the right moment the skins are removed from the doorway and the cold air outside rushes in and a coating of ice forms on the walls. In a little while the entire structure becomes solid ice, and the igloo is so strong that the dome-shaped roof will bear the weight of a hungry polar bear if it comes sniffing round in search of food.

Lastly, when "beds" have been installed — these are platforms of snow — the house is ready for occupation, and though we should find the absence of ventilation very trying, the Eskimos are quite contented with their snug but stuffy winter homes.

Sabah

The Lumberman

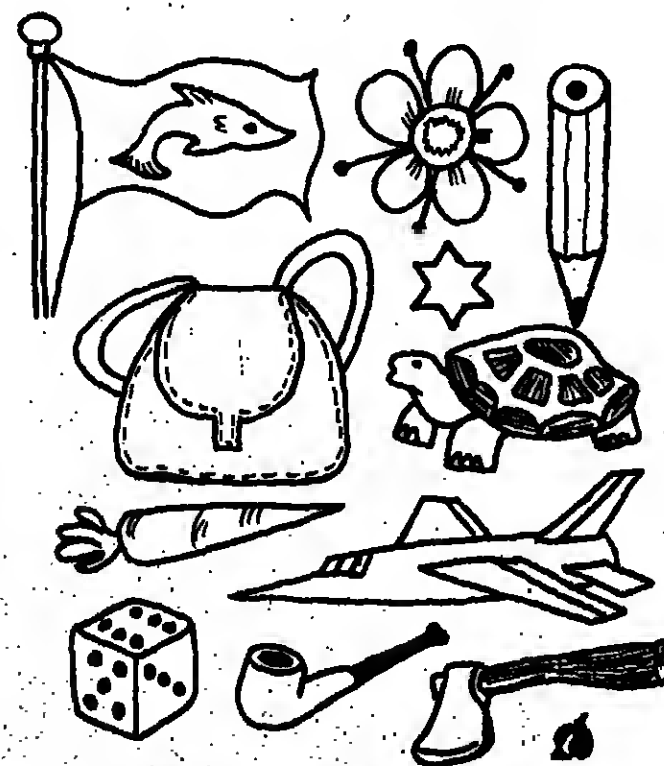
Lutfi, the lumberman, was very much willing to improve his family's standard of living. He even decided to gather and chop wood from a different place so that he might gather more wood and then earn more money.

THE SUN began to show its face. The forest creatures began to stir and the twitters of the birds began to break the silence of the forest. Workers opened their workshops in the villages, labourers began their jobs and housewives began their morning chores.

But Lutfi kept walking as if in a dream. He realized that he was tired when he felt the heat of the sun on his back. Then he saw a forest and decided to rest for a while. As he sat under a tree that gave off some shade, he thought of how he had been a lumberman for 15 years, and now his youngest child was three years old. He thought that if he could take half an hour rest, he would regain his strength to do a good job. Unfortunately, his eyes began to drop and he was so tired of walking that he fell into a deep slumber. He dreamt of the many things he wished to accomplish in his life. He saw brand new shirts, pairs of trousers and shoes of all colours his children would put on. He saw a well-furnished big house and this was his house. His wife had a beautiful dress on and was smiling while waiting for him to come home. In the dining room, there was a meal on the table that seemed to be a feast.

At home, Lutfi's wife and children were very worried about their father who had never been so late coming home from the forest. Khaled, the eldest, put on his warmest clothes and decided to go and search for his father. His mother was afraid to let him out because she knew that anyone could get lost in the forest at night. She took Khaled by the hand and said, "Khaled, your father knows the forest better than you. His 15 years of experience taught him how to survive in the dark and the dangerous forest. He knows what to do, but you do not. You will get lost as soon as you enter that forest. Stay here until it is morning. If your father does not show up by then, the villagers will help us to look for him."

AXE
PIKE
DICE
PLANE
CARROT
TORToise



HANDS
STAR
PENCIL
FLOWER
FLAG
FISH

CAN YOU NAME THE OBJECTS ABOVE?	

R. R. R.

By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 22 December, 1983

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th



You could be feeling slightly depressed during this coming week, because where romance is concerned, there could be just a little tension in the air. It is extremely important for you to try to remember that no matter how successful you may be, you should have someone near to you who can share that success with you. This way, you will be able to get the most out of it.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th



This coming week should start off on a much happier note. There are indications of your changing your work, much more to your advantage. A relative or close friend who possesses a very good personality should prove to be a tremendous help to you during this week, especially if you listen to reason and follow their advice. Towards the end of the week, a small windfall could come your way.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th



All the portents are that you could find yourself doing two jobs during this coming week, one of which is your normal everyday work, and the other you could find yourself doing privately for a friend. The latter could make you a little extra cash. You would be well advised to take my advice and not let it take up too much of your spare time, otherwise you could find yourself in trouble with someone near to you.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th



During this coming week, you should be prepared to be able to battle on behalf of other people around you. This is a little unusual, because whilst you would be the first to help others, and would be willing to do so, you do at times put yourself first. Where your financial position is concerned, matters appear to be easing quite considerably for you now.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th



During this coming week, the indications are that there could be some talk of a change of residence in your family, but nothing definite as yet. One person who is very close to you should prove to be a really good post for you to lean on, and this should prove to you that any doubts which you may have had about them were completely groundless.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th



Although you could meet up with some small irritations, delays and frustrations from time to time, you will be much more in a position to be able to cope with these than for some time past. The week ahead is a week in which you should find others running after you, especially where an affair of the heart is concerned. Where social activities are concerned, you appear to have a very busy week in this direction.

Thursday 22 December

Birthday Greetings to You. There are some very strong signs of travel in store for you, and you would be very well advised to take the opportunity if presented to you. However, it would be wise to take the advice of an experienced person in travelling before making any definite arrangements in this direction.

In your working life, there could be some slight jealousy coming from the direction of a close colleague. Don't worry about this, as it will soon pass, and leave no consequences.

Both in the social field, and also romantically, there are some wonderful surprises ahead of you. A new person you meet will, before very long, become a very close friend.

Friday 23 December

Birthday Greetings to You. On the whole, the coming year should be a very progressive one for you. In the summer, a chance meeting with an old friend could put you on the track of a means of increasing your financial status. Although this may take some while, it should definitely pay dividends in the long run.

Travel may play quite a large part in your life during the coming twelve months. You could find yourself having to make short, but frequent trips, possibly in connection with your business. Also, your holiday this coming year could include quite a considerable amount of travelling.

Saturday 24 December

Birthday Greetings to You. Where financial matters are concerned, a small windfall could come your way around mid-spring. Someone may try to persuade you to enter into a wild investment, but you would do well to guard against this, as you could find that you have set yourself back a little.

Where social activities are concerned, there is much to look forward to during this coming year, including a new sporting activity which will take up quite a lot of your time in the spring and early summer. A hobby which you have been working very hard on could surprisingly bring in some extra cash.

There are strong signs of wedding bells towards the September to October period for the eligible ones amongst you.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

This is a week when by taking the initiative, you could come right out on top. At work, you would do well to have patience, either with someone with whom you work very closely, or a superior, because their nerves may be bad, which in turn, will make them just a little snappy. At home, you can expect to have either builders or workmen around mid-week. Repairs which you may have put off for a while could now have to be done urgently.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

You really can expect a good week ahead for you, particularly where your social activities are concerned. You could be doing quite a lot of home entertaining as well as being entertained yourself in an extremely pleasant way. Where your domestic life is concerned, you may find that you have to use all your patience, for there could well be moments when you may think that something is going on behind your back, but this will not be true.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

You will realize that just as long as you continue at a steady pace, most affairs will go very well for you. Where health matters are concerned, some of you may not be feeling at your absolute best during this week. You have an extremely good constitution and are able to throw off ailments more quickly than others. You should be feeling very pleased by the fact that you are being shown much more respect.

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

All the indications are for an extremely prosperous week ahead for most of you, just as long as you remember to do one job at a time. However, there is one slight warning — you or a member of your immediate family may have to watch out for some slight ailment. However, this will not be in any way serious. Romance could take a turn very much for the better now, and you should be feeling very happy in this direction.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

Try to remember that this is an extremely good week for you to bring out quite openly any ideas which you may have in mind. They should be received with a great deal of interest. A person who is close to you could be rather worried over a personal problem. This will not be as serious as they had at first thought, and they will quickly get over it. This will be a week which will increase your self-confidence more than for quite some time past.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

This week could bring quite a lot of changes, work-wise. By this, I do not necessarily mean that you will change your job, rather that you will take on more work. If you take advantage of this opportunity, it could well lead to promotion or extra money. Where your domestic affairs are concerned, there could be just a little tension at home. You yourself could be called upon to act as peacemaker.

Monday 26 December

Birthday Greetings to You. Where finances are concerned, you could receive a very unexpected lump sum of money within the next ten weeks. However, you must not be tempted to spend rashly or without careful thought.

Family problems could cause you just a little anxiety for the next two months, but by the middle of March, things should straighten out, and then you will have a much more peaceful and happy time.

Where your health is concerned, a few little ailments which you may have been suffering from will disappear from now on, and by your next birthday, you should be feeling 100 per cent fit.

Tuesday 27 December

Birthday Greetings to You. You can look forward to a year full of pleasant surprises and opportunities, with progress in all respects. The only thing to guard against is complacency once everything is running smoothly. This is no time to stop making an effort — on the contrary, you must strive a little more all the time.

A domestic problem involving an elderly person could worry you a little towards the end of May, but within a very short space of time, a solution to this should present itself to you, giving you great peace of mind.

Where social activities are concerned, life should be gay and active, and you should make some good new friends.

Wednesday 28 December

Birthday Greetings to You. Where your career is concerned, the coming year should be a most eventful one, for all the hard work which you have been doing recently will reap rich rewards, and you could be offered promotion.

Two journeys figure prominently in your coming year. One which you expect to go on will be cancelled, and the other will be arranged within a matter of days. The latter could well result in an extremely happy reunion and could have quite an influence on your future life.

Finances appear to be very good during this year. You may receive a windfall around midspring, and this will enable you to solve an outstanding problem that has recently been causing some anxiety.

PEANUTS

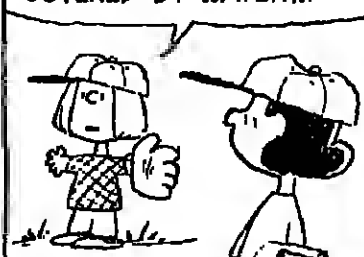
featuring
"Good ol'
Charlie Brown"

by SCHULZ

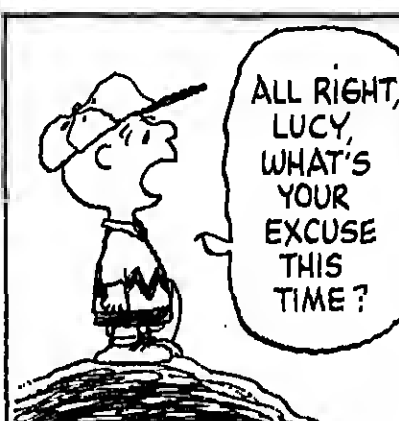
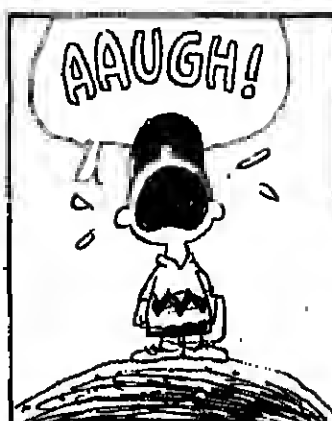
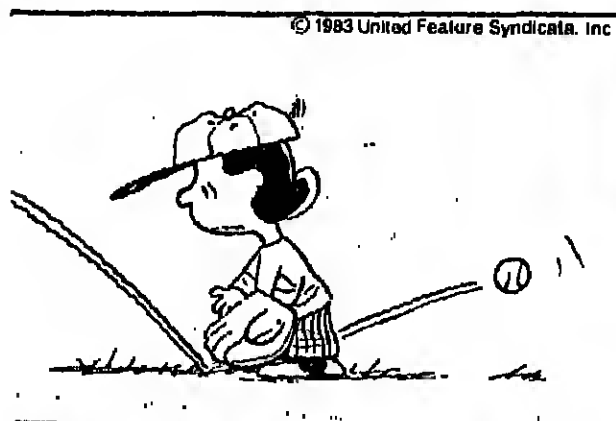


DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT
THE CREATURES THAT WERE
HERE BEFORE US?

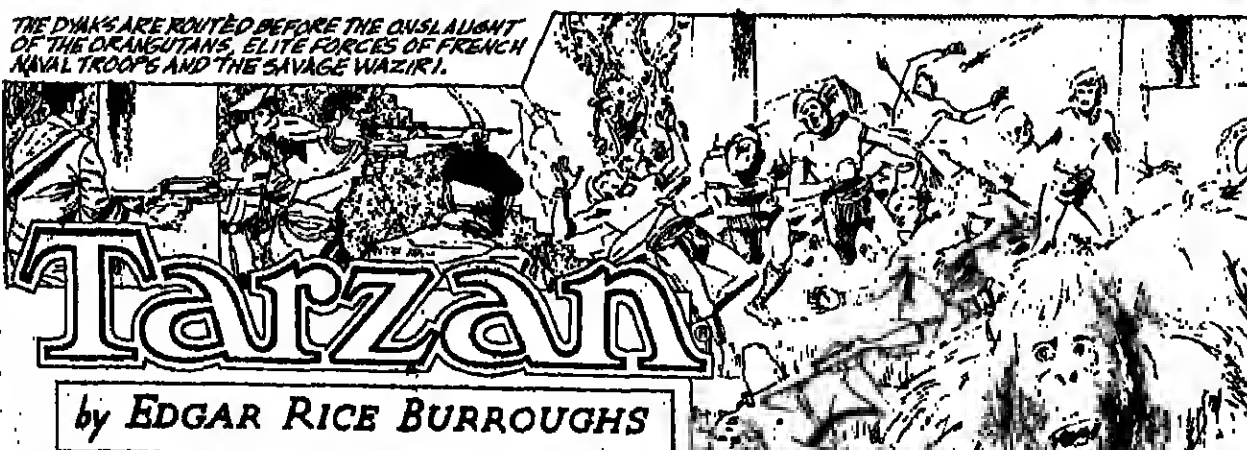
MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO
THIS PLACE WHERE WE'RE
PLAYING BALL WAS ONCE
COVERED BY WATER...



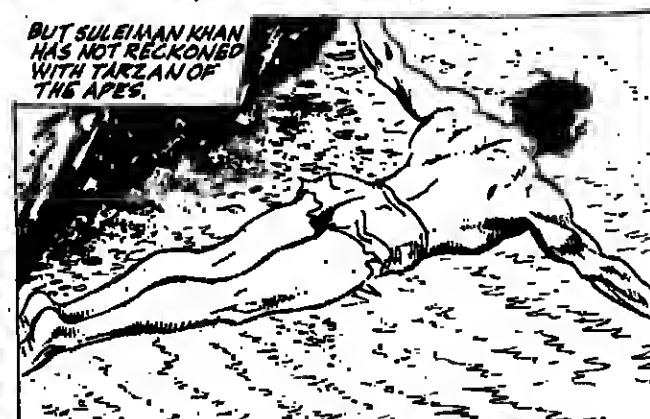
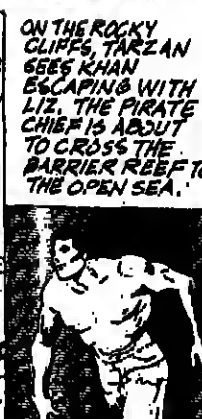
OKAY,
GANG, LET'S
STAY AWAKE
OUT THERE



A FOSSIL GOT
IN MY EYES!

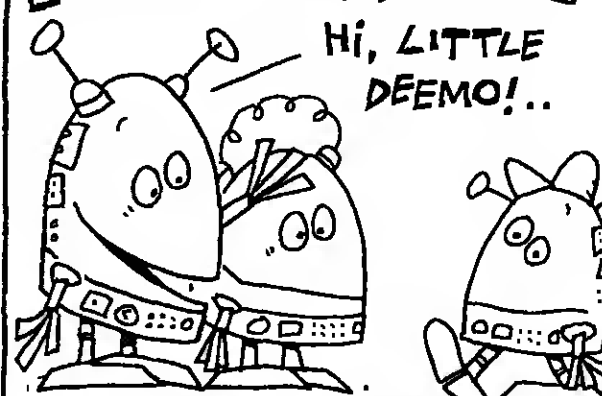


by EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

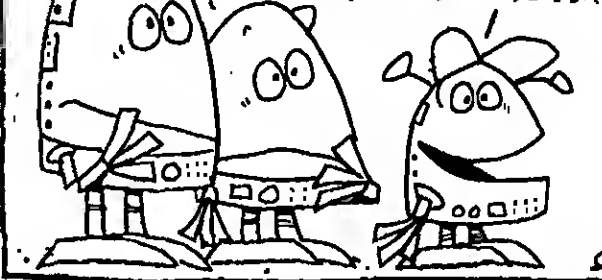


FRANK AND ERNEST

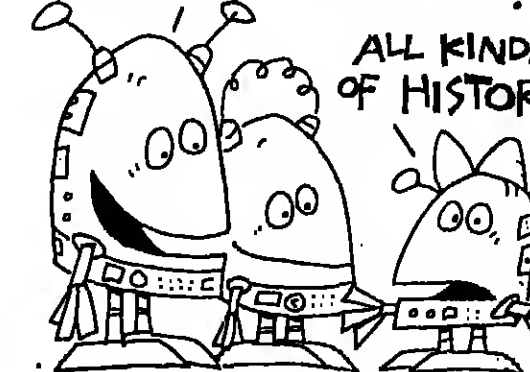
ROBOTICS, INC.



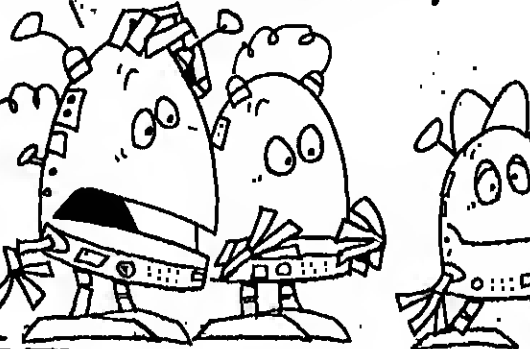
AND HOW MRS. SHAKESPEARE
WAS THE FIRST AVON LADY
...AND CYCLOPS,
THE FIRST
PRIVATE EYE...



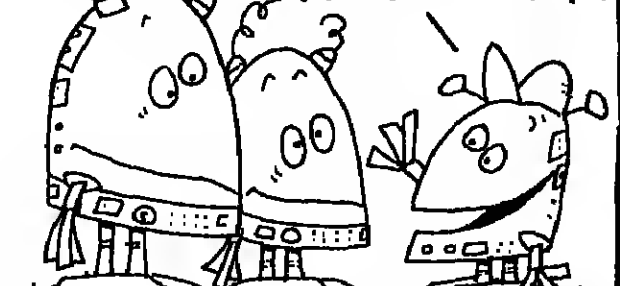
WHAT DID YOU LEARN AT
THE DATA CENTER TODAY?



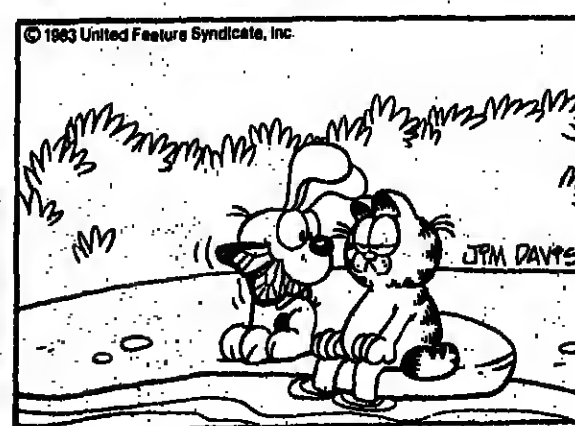
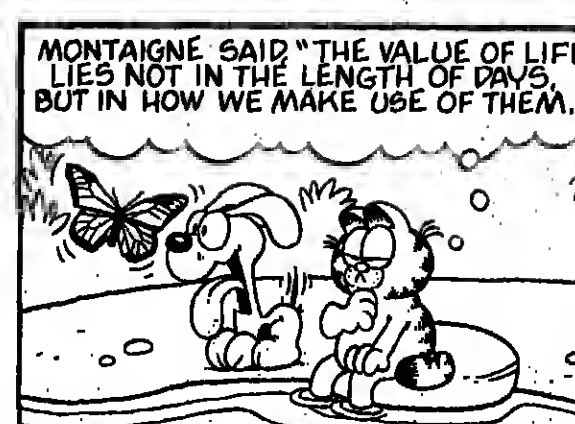
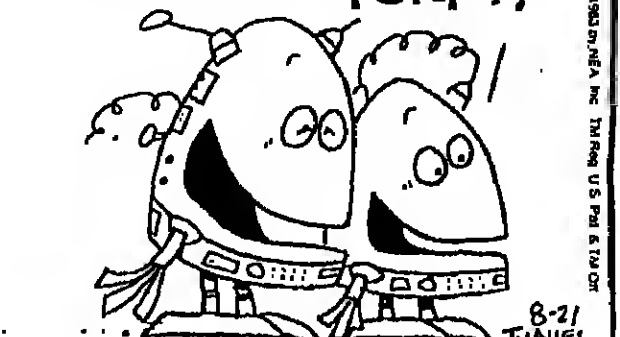
DID YOU HEAR THAT? THIS
NEW GENERATION'S GOT ITS
BITS ALL SCRAMBLED!



LIKE, HOW ABE LINCOLN
WALKED 20 MILES TO BORROW
SOFTWARE FROM THE
MEDIA CENTER.



YEAH.. FLOPPY DISKS ARE ONE
THING, BUT THEIRS ARE
DOWNRIGHT FUNKY!



Answers to the Christmas Crossword

Across

1. Xmas. 4. Lambs. 7. Icing. 10. Sage. 12. Ebooy. 14. All. 15. Ingle. 17. Aster. 20. Extra. 21. Apse. 23. Plum pudding. 24. Trim. 26. Simoa. 27. Order. 28. Deer. 29. Roblo. 30. Greet. 31. Sila. 32. Showy. 37. Santa. 39. Shepherd. 42. Nears. 43. Hoar. 44. Grla. 45. Lower. 48. Trumpet. 52. Wagtail. 53. Acre. 55. East. 57. Preenat. 60. Season. 62. Byres. 63. Caspar. 65. Omits. 67. Ascot. 68. Widow. 69. Places. 70. Robes. 72. Matey. 73. Spire. 75. Raasia. 77. Attar. 78. Sweets. 83. Coffers. 84. Tzar. 85. Also. 87. Reveres. 88. Assists. 90. Lilac. 91. Lost. 92. Boys. 94. Glory. 95. Bethlehem. 99. Moses. 102. Shear. 104. Aria. 105. Drink. 106. Aglie. 107. Arch. 108. Carol. 110. Elias. 111. Vast. 113. Silent Night. 114. Star. 115. Goose. 117. Ready. 119. Prior. 120. Toy. 121. Prays. 122. Asia. 123. Frank. 124. Cross. 125. Song.

Down

2. Messiah. 3. See. 4. Lyre. 5. Balloons. 6. Claas. 8. Chatters. 9. Gift. 10. Sex. 11. Garment. 13. Brandy. 16. Lemmas. 18. Empire. 19. Adorer. 22. Sleigh. 25. Raasia. 33. Oranges. 34. Tiara. 35. Cham. 36. First. 38. New Year. 40. Hotel. 41. Dates. 42. Nowell. 46. Rattle. 47. Pies. 49. Ugly. 50. Paper. 51. Eros. 54. Christmas. 56. Stockings. 58. Snowman. 59. Actress. 61. Arles. 64. Piece. 66. Spy. 67. Aaa. 71. Parcel. 74. Frosty. 75. Raffles. 76. Sure. 79. Eveo. 80. Scrooge. 81. Grace. 82. Taste. 84. Tests. 86. Ozone. 89. Idle. 91. Lillie. 93. Spirit. 95. Baritone. 96. Tinsel. 97. Haggis. 98. Melchior. 100. Orators. 101. Salver. 102. Sherry. 103. Aladdin. 109. Stoop. 112. Turf. 114. Silpa. 116. Spa. 118. Ess.

TV

The holidays on the tube
NOT ALL of us can afford to, or even wish to spend our holidays at various hotels, parties and nightclubs dancing to disco Christmas carols or ringing in the year of doublethink and the Thought Police. But most of us have a television, or access to one, and for many people that will be the accustomed activity: sitting in front of the Tube.

With those stationary revellers in mind, Jordan TV has laid on a series of special programmes during the coming week. The centrepiece of the campaign is to be midnight mass telecast direct from Rome on Christmas Eve — but we'll get to that later. First there are several other specials to attend to.

JTV has managed to line up all the special holiday programmes provided by foreign television corporations (or at least some of them), and will show them at the proper time, this week. That doesn't mean that a Christmas programme won't pop up next June, or that we may not see any Halloween or Easter shows in January. But for now, we've got the Christmas spirit at roughly the right time.

Barney Miller, the sardonic American detective, starts off the fun with a special Christmas programme (tonight (23 December) at 8:30, followed closely at 9:10 by The Love Boat's version of a white Christmas. Be prepared for seaisick Santas and other Caribbean versions of the usual Yuletide gewgaws.

After that, you may have thought there was nowhere to go but up. Such an impression, however, will have been sadly mistaken, as JTV still has another ace up its sleeve. The trend towards incredible shock continues on Friday at 10:15 p.m., with a special instalment of "Hart to Hart". There we may hope to be put out of our misery. But the coup de grace is yet to come.

The feature (run for Saturday night, 24 December, is called "The Gift" (1979). It stars Glenn Ford and Gary Frank, and you can't really blame it for having the kind of story line that it does. After all, that's what Christmas-season television films are for, isn't it? The movie tells the story of Peter Devlin, a young sailor on home leave during the early 1950s.

The film ends just before midnight — a perfect time for Midnight Mass, you might think. But remember that the time in Rome is one hour behind ours — and that's why JTV has chosen to put on the indeliberately-entitled Classical Music Hour. In the absence of any indication of what is meant in this case by "classical", we shall keep a book handy to help fill this hour if it is needed.

The telecast live from Rome starts at 12:55 p.m., and finishes with the end of the St. Peter's Square proceedings at approximately 2:20 on Christmas morning. Merry Christmas.

Programme adjustments

For those who have been following Strumpet City, the Anglo-Irish socio-drama: The series is being finished this month with an accelerated schedule that already brought us the fifth episode on Wednesday, 21 December. It continues with an episode shown as originally planned, on Friday the 23rd; but the seventh and last episode will be shown on Wednesday, 28 December at 9:10 p.m.

22 DECEMBER 1983

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD
CRYPTIC CLUES

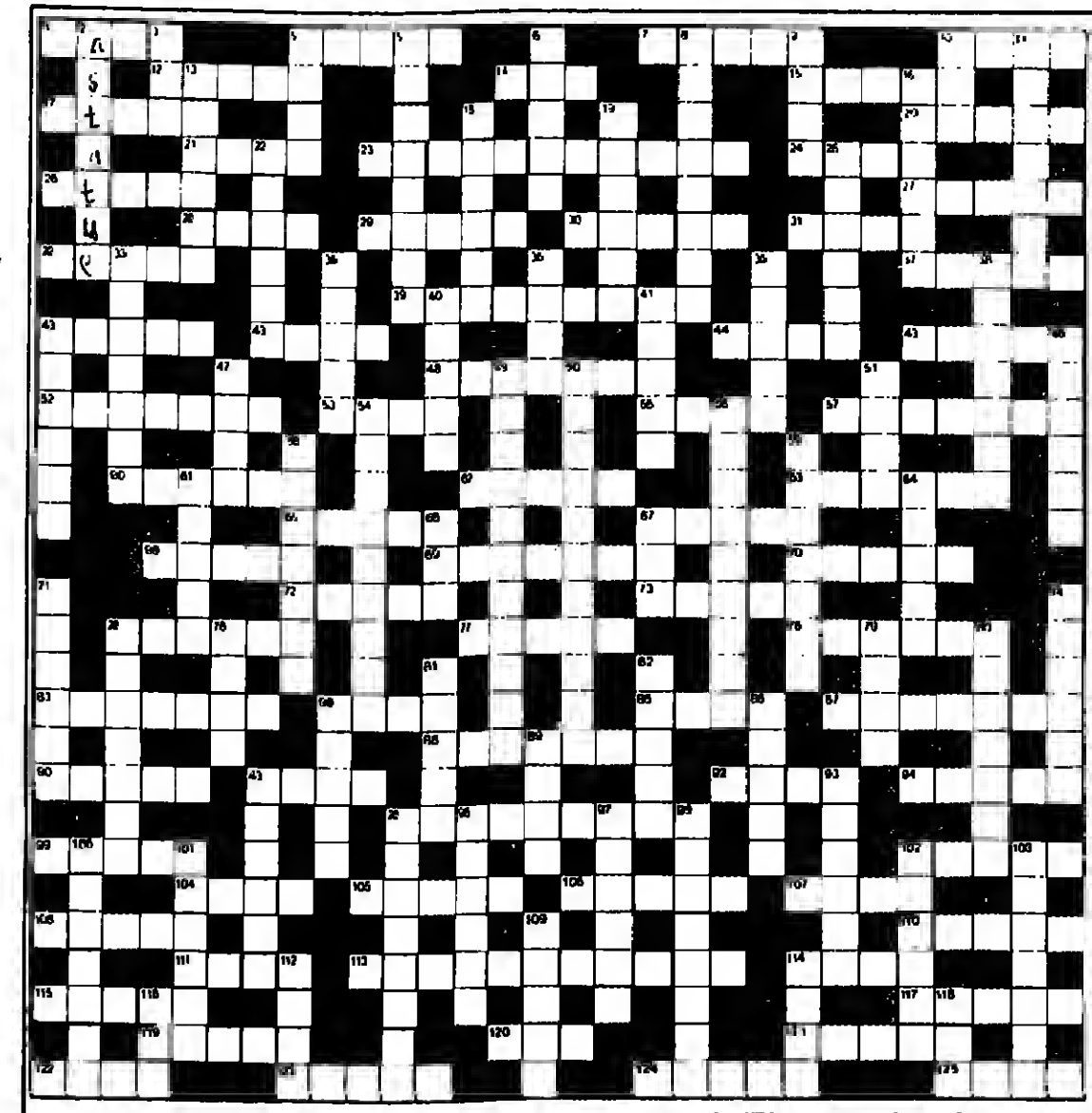
Across

1. Noel says it's ten degrees (4)
4. Strikes announced by woolly young things (5)
7. Sweet white coat (5)
10. Kind of stuffing for the Wise Man (4)
12. Blackwood, the English leader, gets thin (5)
14. Baba's first bit of vandalism (3)
15. Mingles about the fireplace (5)
17. Daisy tears about (5)
19. One of the film crowd (5)
21. Some cheap seating in the church (4)
23. Victoria Sweet's Christmas fare (4,7)
24. Tim goes outside to decorate (4)
26. The saint's a little parsimonious (5)
27. Command tidiness (5)
28. Precious-sounding creature (4)
29. Chaps on in many a Christmas card (5)
30. King George gets English and French welcome (5)
31. Act as an underwriter (4)
32. Gaudy as a pantomime? (5)
37. Worker in the Salvation Army appearing as Father Christmas (5)
39. They minded when they saw the Christmas light (9)
42. Approaches and points out a listener (5)
43. Winter coat (4)
44. Cheshire cat's pleased look (4)
45. Let down the cow (5)
48. Blasted instrument! (7)
52. What the dog might do with a bird (7)
53. Care about the area of land (4)
55. Point the Three Kings came from (4)
57. Here's a gift (7)
60. The water boy's on time (6)
62. Lowly cattle sheds (5)
63. Wise Man driving round past ear (6)
65. So Tim dances and skips (5)
67. A mac, perhaps, needed as the husband is late (5)
69. E.g. Charles, Andrew and Edward (7)
70. Unusually sober habits (5)
72. Cook my tea to be friendly (5)
73. One pointing to heaven from the Church (5)
75. Prussian republic (6)
77. Perfume supplied by Jack at flat (5)
78. Bonbons that are small in some ways (6)
79. Hear the cougher's chests (7)
84. Old ruler of the arts administration (4)
85. As well as some festival songs (4)
87. Unusual reserve one has great respect for (7)
88. In a help (7)
90. This time it's musical (5)
91. and 92. The scruffy slyboots led by Peter Pan (4, 4)
94. Carol says it shone around (5)
95. Royal David's city (9)
99. Prophet tidying mess around the ring (5)
102. Cut and share out (5)
104. Marian's song (4)
105. Doctor taking writing fluid to be rum, perhaps (5)
106. "Sorry Joe" in "105" (5)
107. Monarchist head (4)
108. Waits to sing one (5)
110. Alas is poured out for a prophet (5)
111. Figure a saint to be huge (4)
113. Carol's tinsel thing getting torn (6, 5)

114. A highlight of the Nativity (4)
115. One getting fat as Christmas approaches (5)
117. Ed and Ray get set (5)
119. Previous head of the convent (5)
120. Play part of the panto yourself (3)
121. Implores Ray to put in a PS (5)
122. Area in Caucasian circle (4)
123. Incense him with a gift of the Magi (5)
124. A sign of Christ's being angry (5)
125. Carol's boy appearing before the godhead (4)

Down

2. Handel's liberator (7)
3. Understand it's the bishop's domain (3)
4. Instrument featured by the Kellys recently (4)
5. Toys that get blown up (8)
6. Follower of "37 Across" (5)
8. Hers can't upset the singers (8)
9. Joe to foot the present (4)
10. Could be male or female (3)
11. Covering for a new manger at last (7)
13. Name your first drink (6)
16. Pulped melons taste bitter (6)
18. Domain of a politician in Ireland (6)
19. A French artist's right to be a worshipper (6)
22. Sigh about the French winter transport (6)
25. Soma praising a Christmas cake ingredient (6)
33. Nag Rose to stew the fruit (7)
34. Headdress that I, a rabbi, hold (5)
35. See much change in a friend (4)
36 and 42 Down. Number one Christmas (5, 6)
38. Time of resolution (3, 4)
40. Lo! The inn may appear (5)
41. Crave for down
46. Shake the child's toy (6)
47. Mine dishes? (4)
49. Sue's grizzly pudding unpleasant to Cinderella (4, 7)
50. Pinch a spare piece for the decorations (5, 6)
51. Rose got up as the god of love (4)
54. Festival that has its charms (9)
56. The present holders (9)
58. One won't survive the thaw (7)
59. She has a part to play (7)
61. Sign to arise, perhaps (5)
64. A bit of peace, by the sound of it (5)
66. Agent trapped by clamorous pyromaniacs (3)
67. A ship's animal (3)
71. EP Carl made a packet from (6)
74. For a change the pen is in (6)
75. Gentleman thief puts goods in a lottery (7)
76. Certain to be in the treasure-chest (4)
79. Flat way the snow lay round about (4)
80. One haunted by Christmas ghosts (7)
81. Darling girl (5)
82. Sample some of Greta's tea-cakes (5)
84. Tries the matches (5)
86. The air's a lightweight one (5)
89. Lied about being unemployed (4)
91. Lisle pattern with flowers (7)
93. I strip, drunk with brandy, perhaps (6)



95. Cab Brian drove to the arts centre (8)
96. It gives sparkle to Martin's elderberry wine (6)
97. Crones swallowing American soldier's food (6)
98. Choir Mel arranged for the Wise Man (8)
100. They talk of an alternative to roast-putting (7)
101. Presentation tray (6)
102. Drink sounds dear to the French (6)
103. Lad and I performing in a pantomime (7)
109. Love to step out in Bow (5)
112. Initially takes up racing fillies at the track (4)
114. Soft-hearted half-sister has a drink (4)
116. Resort featured in a Christmas pantomime (3)
118. A letter from the messenger (3)

STRAIGHTFORWARD CLUES

Across

1. Yuletide (4)
4. Young sheep (5)
7. Cake decoration (5)
10. Herb (4)
12. Black wood (5)
14. "Baba" (3)
15. Fireside (5)
17. Michaelmas daisy (5)
20. Crowd actor (5)
21. Church recess (4)
23. Christmas fare (4, 7)
24. Neat (4)
26. Saint's name (5)
27. Command (5)
28. Antlered creature (4)
29. Redbreast (5)
30. Hail (5)
31. Autograph (4)
32. Ostentatious (5)
37 and 6 Down. Further Christmas (5, 5)
39. Flock minders (9)
42. Approaches (5)
43. Frost (4)
44. Wide smile (4)
45. Let down (5)
48. Wind instrument (7)
52. Songbird (7)
53. Area of land (4)
55. Compass point (4)
57. Give (7)
60. Time of year (6)
62. Cattle sheds (5)
63. Bearer of frankincense (6)
65. Leaves out (5)
67. Famous racecourse (5)
68. "Twankey" (5)
69. Royal sons (7)
70. Clothes (5)
72. Friendly (5)
73. Pointed steeple (5)
75. Soviet Union (6)
77. Perfume (5)
78. Confectionery (6)
83. Cheats (7)

Down

2. Survivor (7)
3. Bishop's domain (3)
4. Plucked instrument (4)
5. Inflatable toys (8)
6. See "37 Across"
8. Singers (8)
9. Donation (4)
10. Gender (3)
11. Item of clothing (7)
13. Strong drink (6)
16. Bitter fruits (6)
18. Dominions (6)
19. Worshipper (6)
22. Toboggan (6)
25. Christmas cake ingredient (6)
33. Citrus fruit (7)
34. Jewelled headpiece (5)

36. Prima (5)
38. It starts on January 1st (3, 4)
40. Inn (5)
41. Palm fruits (5)
42. Christmas (6)
46. Shake noisily (6)
47. Baked dishes (4)
49. Pantomime characters (4,7)
50. Lightweight decorations (5, 6)
51. Cupid (4)
54. Joyful festival (9)
56. Leg coverings (9)
58. Key figure (7)
59. Female player (7)
61. Sign of the zodiac (5)
64. Bit (5)
66. Secret agent (3)
67. Fool (3)
71. Package (6)
74. Key (6)
75. Lotteries (7)
76. Certain (4)
79. Flint (4)
80. Dikonsian character (7)
81. Elegance (5)
82. Flavour (5)
84. Trias out (5)
86. Sensitive air (5)
89. Unoccupied (4)
91. Flowers (6)
93. Ghost (6)
95. Watchtower (8)
96. Glittering decoration (6)
97. Scottish dish (6)
98. One of the three kings (8)
100. Spacemakers (7)
101. Tray (6)
102. Fortified wine (6)
103. Popular pantomime (7)
109. Bow (5)
112. Racetrack (4)
114. Drinks slowly (4)
116. Health resort (3)
118. Letter (3)

For solution, see page 22 of this week's Jerusalem Star

THE JERUSALEM STAR 23

'Beirut has come to London' comments an observer on the Harrods bomb explosion

By Len Rockingham
Star London Correspondent

LONDON — To get from Knightsbridge underground station to Harrods, the famous West London department store, you have to cross Hans Crescent. Thousands of visitors to London from the Middle East must have crossed that street. It was here, in Hans Crescent, last Saturday afternoon that the pre-Christmas shopping calm was shattered by a massive car bomb explosion.

A visitor from Lebanon said: "Now Beirut has come to London". But, although there are some links between the troubles of the Middle East and the question of Northern Ireland, with which this bomb was connected, there are also very big differences.

The most obvious difference is that the bomb outrage was immediately condemned — not only by the British government but also by the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic. Yet it is in order to force British troops out of Northern Ireland and forcibly to re-unite Northern Ireland with the Irish Republic that the IRA (the Irish Republican Army) is waging its campaign of murder and bomb outrages, which have claimed hundreds of lives in Ireland and now a few more in Britain too.

The IRA has admitted responsibility for the Knightsbridge bomb, but claimed that it had not been authorised by what they call the "IRA Council". It also expressed regret at what it called the "civilian casualties" of this bomb outrage. Thus, the IRA tries to give the impression that it is a disciplined organization whose real quarrel is not with the ordinary people of Britain, but with the government, the police and the army.

Strong condemnation

It is not surprising that the IRA statement has been dismissed as "contemptible" by the police and government in London. What is perhaps more surprising is the very strong condemnation from

the Irish Prime Minister, Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald, who indicated that he would quickly propose to parliament in Dublin that it should outlaw Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA and Dr. Fitzgerald invited the British government to do the same and outlaw Sinn Fein in both Britain and Northern Ireland. He also promised much closer security co-operation against terrorists between the two governments.

Moreover, as tens of thousands of Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland voted for Sinn Fein in the elections last June, to outlaw the party now would be to deprive these people of their democratic choice. And, in addition, the British government has to weigh up the effect all this would have on the Protestant community. There are Protestant extremists who, although they have never exploded bombs in London, are equally as dangerous and as murderous as are the IRA.

In the short term, there is absolute horror at the killing of innocent people going about their peaceful business of shopping for Christmas. In the longer term, however, the Knightsbridge car bomb may well have helped bring peace in Northern Ireland a small step nearer. A bomb outrage like this, with the loss of innocent lives, will probably damage the cause of the IRA far more than any successful police operation.

Meanwhile the Associated Press reported that police Wednesday arrested four people in early morning raids in London. A Scotland Yard spokesman said the four were being held under Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act. He refused to say whether the four were suspects in the Harrods bombing. Other news agency reports said the four were IRA sympathisers who had been under surveillance since the bombing.

In another development, Commander William Huckleby, head of the Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said detectives have obtained a good description of the man who last month bought the Austin sedan in which the bomb was hidden.



FINAL FAREWELL: Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yusef Arafat walks with his bodyguards to an awaiting jeep that took him to one of the Greek ships which evacuated him and 4,000 of his loyalists on Tuesday. (AP Wirephoto)

British foreign secretary to visit Middle East

LONDON (Star) — It was learned here that the British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, is to make his first official visit to the Middle East to the year. Although details of the trip will have to wait the official announcement due later in the week, it appears that Sir Geoffrey will be visiting Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and possibly other countries, in the second week of January.

The purpose of Sir Geoffrey's trip is to familiarise himself with the area and to gain a first-hand impression of recent happenings in the Middle East. He has not been to the Arab world since becoming foreign secretary last summer, in succession to Mr. Francis Pym.

However, one of Sir Geoffrey's team of ministers at the foreign office, Mr. Richard Luce, has paid a number of visits to the Middle East this year, and Sir Geoffrey himself did visit Saudi Arabia in January, when he was chancellor of the exchequer and also chairman of the Interim committee of the International Monetary Fund.

Reagan urged to end American involvement in Lebanon

Star Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The bombing of the American embassy in Kuwait last week reminded US officials and security experts the grim stories of previous bombing of the American embassy and the massive attack on American Marines in their headquarters in Beirut.

The Kuwait attack although did not hurt or kill US diplomats or citizens, is adding more to the elements of disarray and lack of direction of American policy strategists for Lebanon and the Middle East as a whole. The State Department, deplored the attacks in Kuwait in the strongest terms, saying these attacks "will not deter the US from pursuing a steady policy in the Middle East." Observers and critics of the current American policy do not believe that there is a so-called "steady policy" in the Middle East. There is a growing concern among former US government policy makers that the Reagan Administration is pushing America deeper into trouble in the quick sands of Lebanon.

These critics, Republicans and Democrats alike, are sending loud voices and clear messages to President Reagan with a demand to end the American entanglement in the web of Lebanon's uncertainty and pull the Marines out of Lebanon. They say America should let the Lebanese handle their own affairs, unhindered by the 1600 Marines who are already living in a new combatant zone.

Criticism of American presence has been lacking on a bipartisan approach and consensus. The critics are "hawks" and "doves" in the Nixon, Ford and Carter administrations, who see the United States being drawn to what they regard as "futile and counterproductive efforts to use American military power in Lebanon."

These critics agree with President Reagan's decision on the air strikes from the US to protect the Marines in Beirut, but they believe that the US should not be a peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

Former Defence Secretary James Schlesinger, Jr., said of the US present force in Lebanon: "the correlation of forces, as the Soviets would say, is to our (US) disadvantage." He favours the withdrawal of the Marines because "the longer we stay, the greater will be our embarrassment when we withdraw. The Syrians will play cat-and-mouse with us, and we might as well make it shorter rather than longer," he added.

Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser for President Carter said: "US policy is likely to entangle us in a direct conflict with the Syrians with very negative consequences for the American position in the Middle East. We are, in effect, sliding away from being a mediator into becoming a protagonist. That will drive the Arabs toward the Syrians and widen political openings for the Soviets in the region." The former security adviser confirmed that "American involvement in Lebanon would only make sense if it were part of a concerted and truly energetic effort to initiate Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli talks on the subject of the West Bank, including in the meantime a freeze on the Israeli settlements, as well as US-Syrian-Israeli talks regarding both Lebanon and the Golan Heights."

Even the conservative ultra-Zionist fanatic defence expert and lecturer, Dr. Edward Luttwak, who had reportedly authored the plan to partition Lebanon, expressed his criticism of American policy in Lebanon. He said "the only military purpose the Marines could serve in Lebanon is if they could be perceived by the Syrians as the spearhead of a whole army

to come. My own preference is evacuation. Even if air attacks on the Syrian installations can be made tactically perfect, or tactical significance of strategic

Dr. Harold Brown, secretary of defence in the Carter administration, in a comment said: "the question of keeping or removing the Marines is not the central issue for the United States, although if it is going to end in an ignominious pullout, the sooner the better. Basically, you have to be clear on what your policy is and what your objectives are, and it is not clear to me what that is in the current administration. The vital interests of the United States in the Middle East happen not to be in Lebanon. If it is not feasible to get Israel and Syria out of Lebanon, one possibility for removing the Marines from there is to achieve 'a de facto' position."

On his part Mr. Sol Linowitz, former special Middle East envoy in the Carter administration said: "we are groping, hoping that force will work. The new strategy apparently believes that Syria can be forced out of Lebanon. The problem is, there never has been any evidence that this is the way to get Syria out."

Mr. Linowitz agrees to have to maintain the Marines there, at present, redeploying them if necessary for security. He advocates the introduction of a substitute UN observer force by seeking Soviet consent for it, and trying to get the Saudis to help on that and other diplomatic initiatives.

Besides these experts, two specialists who served in the Republican and Democratic administrations Mr. Harold Saunders and Mr. William Quandt, criticised the lack of consistency in the administration's strategy. But neither one favoured

pulling the Marines out, at the present time. These voices, added to reports from a Pentagon commission about the lack of proper security precautions in US embassies in the area, seen in the easy entrance causing a lot of headaches to the administration. The Pentagon commission, in its preliminary findings, came down hard on the Marine corps. The commission found that the corps was "grossly negligent" in providing adequate physical barriers for security at the Marine headquarters in Beirut.

The most damning aspect of the findings, according to the ABC Pentagon respondent, is that very little has been done to improve security after the Beirut blast. The report said that the Marines still vulnerable to attacks. The State Department admitted that the US embassy in Kuwait has in the past received severe security threats and has tried to take appropriate security precautions, especially in the wake of the bombings in Beirut. "Obviously though, embassies by their nature must be accessible to the public and cannot be made into armed fortresses. This limits the types of protective measures that can be taken," State Department spokesman Allen Romberg said.

The American government is finding itself now surrounded by many critics as security precautions at embassies in the Middle East. There is the belief here in Washington that the Marines, who are mostly guard US missions abroad, are mostly on the police forces and embassies from the host countries to perform the routine duties in maintaining security around the embassies. This trend, according to some diplomatic observers, to stop and the Marines should stay in front of the embassies and perform the hardest and most routine jobs in guarding these embassies abroad.